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Muslim homes a hub for pilgrimage craft

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China's anti-lockdown protests spread to dozens of campuses

'We need democracy, rule of law, and freedom of expression,' chant students at Tsinghua University in Beijing, Chinese president Xi Jinping's alma mater; call for an end to lockdowns and mass testing gathers steam on social media

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

Protests in China against the government's harsh COVID-19 lockdown measures continued to intensify over the weekend, spreading to dozens of university campuses around the country in an unprecedented challenge to the Communist Party, on a scale unseen in decades.

These protests were triggered by widespread anger at the death of at least 10 people in a fire in an apartment in the western city of Urumqi, with delays in extinguishing the blaze widely seen by the public as a result of lockdown policies. The protests have coincided with a record outbreak of COVID cases across China in recent days, which have brought fresh lockdowns. The National Health Commission on Sunday reported more than 39,500 cases, the highest since the pandemic began.

Late on Saturday night, crowds gathered in Shanghai, on Urumqi Road, to mourn the victims of the fire. Videos on social media showed protesters calling for an end to lockdowns and mass testing. Some raised slogans against China's president Xi Jinping and the ruling Communist Party. Several hundred people gathered in Beijing on Sunday night for a rare protest. Some laid out candles to mourn those in Urumqi, while others chanted, "We don't want COVID tests, we want freedom!" A large police presence was deployed around the protest that took place near the Liangma river in the heart of the capital.

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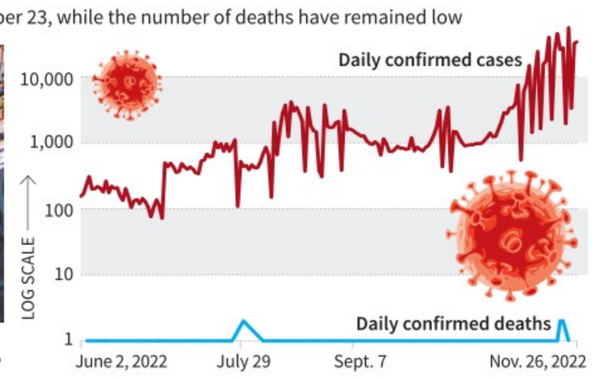
Cases spiral in China

New COVID-19 cases crossed the 55,000 mark in China on November 23, while the number of deaths have remained low

Police officers confront a man as people block Shanghai's Wulumuqi Street in protest against China's zero-COVID policy. AFP



G-20 presidency is an opportunity to focus on global good: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that assuming the G-20 presidency was a huge opportunity for India and that the country must utilise it by focusing on the global good. He said this during his monthly radio broadcast, *Mann Ki Baat*.

"India will assume presidency of the powerful grouping G-20 on December 1. For India, it is a huge opportunity. India must utilise the opportunity of G-20 leadership by focusing on global good and welfare," he said. "Be it peace or unity, sensitivity towards environment or sustainable development, India has solutions to challenges related to all such things," he said.

The PM mentioned that he received a handwoven G-20 logo woven by Yeldhi

Narendra Modi

Hariprasad of Sircilla district in Telangana, along with a letter stating that it was a matter of great pride for India to host the G-20 summit next year. "I was very happy to see how connected even a person sitting in a district in Telangana could feel with a summit like G-20," he said, adding that he had received messages from people across India expressing similar sentiments.

BANGLADESH AND G-20 » PAGE 10

NEARBY

Border row: CM meets with team

BENGALURU
Amid a war of words between BJP leaders in Karnataka and Maharashtra over the border row, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday reviewed the State's legal preparations.
» Page 4

BDA to resume work on Hebbal flyover

BENGALURU
The resumption of work to add two lanes to Hebbal flyover may impact vehicle movement at the junction which has one of the worst traffic bottlenecks in the city. » Page 3

EDUCATION PLUS » PAGE 2

Egyptian President Sisi to be chief guest at Republic Day celebrations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Egyptian President Abdel Fateh el-Sisi will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in January 2023, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Sunday.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited Egypt in October when he referred to the "very good personal relationship" between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Sisi.

"India and Egypt enjoy warm and friendly relations based on civilisational and deep-rooted people-to-people ties.

Both countries are celebrating the 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations this year," an official press release from the Ministry pointed out.

Egypt and India were founding members of the movement for non-alignment in international affairs during the 1950s and Egyptian leaders have traditionally maintained cordial ties with New Delhi. Mr. Sisi attended the India Africa Forum Summit along with other heads of states and governments of Africa from October 26 to 29 in 2015.

Newer initiatives

The two countries are reinventing a trusted bilateral relationship through newer initiatives such as green energy. In July this year, Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's ReNew Power for $8 billion to build a clean hydrogen facility in the Suez Canal Economic Zone.

The Indian entity, backed by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and Goldman Sachs, is expected to produce 2,20,000 tonnes of clean fuel annually at the Egyptian facility.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

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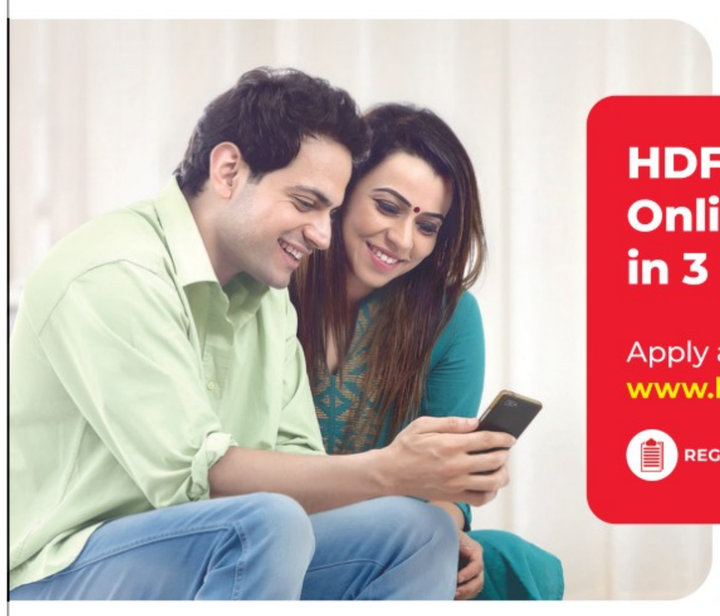

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Overall recovery rate under insolvency resolution falls

30.18 In percent, the declining cumulative recovery rate under the insolvency resolution processes of debt-ridden companies at the end of the September quarter, indicating that lenders took more haircuts on their exposure, according to a Care Ratings study. The recovery rate has fallen from a peak of 43% in Q1 FY20. PTI

Foreign investors return to the Indian market in November

31,630 In ₹ crore, the net amount foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have invested in Indian equities in November on the back of hopes of an end to the aggressive rate hikes, and positivity about overall macroeconomic trends. According to experts, FPIs are unlikely to be major sellers going forward. PTI

England's team arrives in Pakistan after years for Test series

17 The number of years after which England's cricket team arrived in Pakistan early Sunday to play three Tests. England played a successful T-20 series two months ago in Pakistan but had declined to play a Test match there for 17 years citing security reasons. Pakistan had to play their home matches in neutral venues of the UAE following attacks on the Sri Lankan team in 2009. AFP

A decline in the number of senior citizens using Railways

24 In percentage, the dip in the number of senior citizens travelling by trains in 2021-22 as compared to 2019-2020, according to an RTI query. In 2019-20, 7.2 crore senior citizens travelled by train but in 2020-21, it dropped to 1.9 crore. However, in 2021-22, about 5.5 crore used the Railways. Officials said this dip can be attributed to the second wave of COVID-19. PTI

China pledges $100 million to the island nation of Cuba

100 In $ million, the amount China pledged to Cuba to help it survive a crippling economic crisis exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, the island nation's Deputy Prime Minister Alejandro Gil said on Saturday. The donation came as Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel concluded a visit to China, part of a rare foreign trip. AFP

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Toward legalising same-sex marriage

How do the fresh pleas in the Supreme Court seek to recognise same-sex marriage? What are the existing rights of LGBTQIA+ people in India? Which are the judgments being cited by the petitioners? Where do other countries stand on same-sex marriage?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal
Priyali Prakash

The next step: The Queer Pride March in 2019, New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The story so far:

A Supreme Court Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on November 25, issued notices to the Centre and the Attorney General of India, seeking their response to two petitions filed by gay couples to allow solemnisation of same-sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act, (SMA) 1954.

What do the petitions say?

The SMA provides a civil form of marriage for couples who cannot marry under their personal law, and both the recent pleas seek to recognise same-sex marriage in relation to this Act and not personal laws.

The first petition was filed by two men, Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang, who have been a couple for 10 years. Their petition argued that the SMA was "ultra vires" the Constitution "to the extent it discriminates between same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples". It stated that the Act denied same-sex couples both "legal rights as well as the social recognition and status" that came from marriage. Senior Advocates Niraj Kishan Kaul and Menaka Guruswamy for the petitioners said that about 15 legislations which guaranteed the rights of wages, gratuity, adoption, surrogacy and so on were not available to LGBTQ+ citizens. The petitioners emphasised that the SMA "ought to apply to a marriage between any two persons, regardless of their gender identity and sexual orientation".

The other petition was filed by a same-sex couple of 17 years – Parth Phiroze Mehrotra and Uday Raj Anand. Their counsel, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, argued that the recognition of same-sex marriage was only a "sequel" or a continuation of the *Navtej Singh Johar* judgment of 2018 (decriminalising homosexuality) and the *Puttaswamy* judgment of 2017 (affirming the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right). Mr. Rohatgi said the petition did not touch on personal laws but only sought to make the 1954 Act "gender-neutral". Their plea pointed out that while Section 4 of the SMA permitted the solemnisation of marriage between any two persons, a subsequent section placed restrictions. It said: "The use, in Section 4(c) of the words 'male' and 'female', as well as the use of gendered language such as the terms 'husband/wife' and 'bride/bridegroom' in other sections of the Act, limit the access to marriage to a couple comprising one 'male' and one 'female'."

Have similar petitions been filed?

There are currently a total of nine petitions pending before the High Court of Delhi and Kerala, seeking to recognise same-sex marriages under Acts such as the SMA, the Foreign Marriage Act and codified personal laws. On Friday, the Supreme Court Bench of CJI Chandrachud and Justice Hima Koli transferred the various pending issues before High Courts to itself.

One of the new petitions also placed emphasis on another important judgement of the apex court. In the *NALSA vs Union of India* judgment (2014), the Court had said that non-binary individuals were protected under the Constitution and fundamental rights such as equality, non-discrimination, life, freedom and so on could not be restricted to those who were biologically male or female.

What is the government's stand?

Late last year, while responding to the pleas seeking recognition of same-sex marriages in the Delhi High Court, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for the Centre had said that as per the law, marriage was permissible between a "biological man" and "biological woman". In its affidavit opposing the pleas, the Centre had said: "The acceptance of the institution of marriage between two individuals of the same gender is neither recognised nor accepted in any uncodified personal laws or any codified statutory laws". It also argued against the urgency of the pleas by saying nobody was "dying" in the absence of a marriage certificate.

What about other countries?

A total of 32 countries around the world have legalised same-sex marriages, some through legislation while others through judicial pronouncements. Many countries first recognised same-sex civil unions as the escalatory step to recognise homosexual marriage. Civil unions or partnerships are similar arrangements as marriages which provide legal recognition of unmarried couples of the same or opposite sex in order to grant them some of the rights that come with marriage – such as inheritance, medical benefits, employee benefits to spouses, managing joint taxes and finances, and in some cases even adoption. The Netherlands was the first country in 2001 to legalise same-sex marriage by amending one line in its civil marriage law. In some countries, the decriminalisation of homosexuality was not followed for years by the recognition of same-sex marriage, for instance, in the U.S. the former happened in 2003 while the latter in 2015.

THE GIST

- A Supreme Court Bench on November 25, issued notices to the Centre and the Attorney General of India, seeking their response to two petitions filed to allow solemnisation of same-sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act.
- One of the petitions argues that the recognition of same-sex marriage was only a "sequel" or a continuation of the *Navtej Singh Johar* judgment of 2018 (decriminalising homosexuality) and the *Puttaswamy* judgment of 2017 (affirming the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right).
- Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for the Centre had said that as per the law, marriage was permissible between a "biological man" and "biological woman".

What is the PDS scam that has led to a SC listing controversy?

How has the Nagrik Apurti Nigam, the nodal agency for Chhattisgarh's public distribution system, become embroiled in scandal? What are the Enforcement Directorate's accusations against the government?

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:

On November 21, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud agreed to hear the Nagrik Apurti Nigam (NAN) scam case in the Supreme Court, after a high-octane exchange last week between the Chhattisgarh Government and the Enforcement Directorate over the case's listing in front of a fresh Bench.

What is the NAN scam?

The NAN is Chhattisgarh's nodal agency for procuring and distributing food grains under the Public Distribution System (PDS). In 2015, when former Chief Minister and BJP leader Raman Singh was in power, the Opposition alleged that the government was distributing sub-standard quality grains under the PDS and that officials had received kickbacks from rice millers to allow this. The State's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) launched a probe into the matter. While conducting raids at the NAN office, the agency found unaccounted-for cash worth over three crore. It also tested the food samples for their quality, finding many samples of salt and rice unfit for human consumption. It booked 27 persons in the case including two IAS officers, now the main accused, Anil Tuteja and Alok Shukla, (the Chairman and the Managing Director of NAN, respectively) alleging that they had allowed the distribution of sub-standard foodstuffs. The ED also started a money laundering probe into the case.

Charges were pressed against the officers in 2018. In December 2018, Bhupesh Bhagel's Congress government took charge, constituting within days a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter again. Notably, Mr. Bhagel's administration appointed the two accused IAS officers to government posts and in 2020, the Chhattisgarh High Court also granted anticipatory bail to the two officers.

Why did the ED want a transfer?

Late last year, the ED moved the Supreme Court seeking a retrial out of Chhattisgarh and a transfer of the case to the CBI. The ED, in its petition, alleged that the judiciary and the current Chhattisgarh government were weakening the investigation and helping the accused in the case and asked the Court to allow proof of the same. The ED alleged that its evidence revealed "the nature of the misuse of power" in Chhattisgarh, saying that evidence was tampered with, witnesses were influenced, and that there could be a "potential conspiracy" involving a "constitutional functionary". It said that the main accused had close ties with the current Chief Minister Mr. Bhagel, and that the SIT formed by the State government made "at least seven unsuccessful attempts" to stall the previous trial. The Chhattisgarh government has called the ED's allegations "baseless".

What was the listing controversy in the Supreme Court?

The retired Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit, along with Justices Ajay Rastogi and S. Ravindra Bhat, were hearing the ED's plea but dropped the case from the Court roster on October 20, citing paucity of time before the end of his term on November 8. On November 14, the case came up before a new Bench with Justices Shah and Hima Kohli. However, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Chhattisgarh government, objected, saying the convention required the case to be listed before either of the two associate judges on Justice Lalit's Bench. Justice Chandrachud responded that he could have constituted a Bench of himself and Justices Rastogi and Bhat but that would mean breaking up two separate Benches, presently headed by the two Justices. On Monday, however, Justice Chandrachud agreed to constitute a Bench headed by himself with Justices Rastogi and Bhat.

THE GIST

- In 2015, when BJP was in power, Chhattisgarh's Anti-Corruption Bureau launched a probe into the NAN and found unaccounted-for cash worth over three crore. It also tested the food samples, finding many samples of salt and rice unfit for human consumption.
- The ED moved the Supreme Court seeking a transfer of the case to the CBI. The ED alleged that the current Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh government was weakening the investigation.
- A previous Bench hearing the ED's plea dropped the case from the Court roster citing paucity of time and the case came up before a new Bench. However, senior advocate Kapil Sibal objected, saying the convention required the case to be listed before either of the two associate judges on the previous Bench.

EDUCATIONPLUS

Salil Sahadevan

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Is fun overrated in learning?

The pressure to make learning fun in the name of engagement undermines learning

Ask any accomplished artist, industrialist or anyone who made a mark in their craft whether all phases of learning were fun. If you believe learning should be fun, think about what happens when the fun stops.

When you learn graphic design, jumping into an app is fun; undoubtedly a good start. But, graphic design as a domain is broader than any specific technology or software. So, if you fail to advance from the app, you are stuck with the wrong reference point. After all, education is not an app. Sadly, if you anticipate lot of fun, you are less likely to be an expert in any area soon.

Enjoyable learning

Quoting scientific studies, the Internet reiterates that learning should be fun. But when you go to the original studies, they speak about enjoyable learning, not fun. The studies extoll the value of positive experiences and avoidance of negative emotions such as boredom, confusion and anxiety.

Learning and fun are not opposites. Learning can be fun, but fun should not be the target of learning. An increasing effort to make everything fun sets up the students for failure. According to Dan Kent, a teacher, learning becomes fun by realising and experiencing how much fun knowing is.

Learning as fun is promoted as an attempt to make students independent and self-reliant. The concept is founded in individualistic cultures, which are currently under question. If we want independent, self-sufficient children and youth, we must give them the tools and knowledge. That requires challenge, direction and an understanding that learning will not always be fun, says Michael F. Mascolo, a professor of psychology. The truly independent and self-reliant child knows that learning can be challenging and even painful.

But learning does not have to be boring. Contagious laughter and humour come naturally in any high-energy learning situation. Fun is not a problem; the search for fun almost as a necessity in education is the problem.

Playful pedagogies

Fun is different from play, enjoyment, and meaning. Play is one of the most brain-friendly methods of learning. Play entails taking chances, trying new things, and pushing the boundaries of our ability. Playful pedagogies open doors to creating knowledge.

On the contrary, what you get from an amusement park is fun. What you feel after a personal discovery is enjoyment. What you get from a well-lived life is meaning. It is the joy of mastery, the pleasure of competence, that gives enjoyment and meaning. Preparing a student to anticipate fun in learning is inviting them to be naïve.

Game-based learning environments and gamification are different approaches to learning and their efficiency depends on their design. Irrespective of the pedagogy, fun should not be the focus. It is no more than clickbait to introduce a topic. The pressure to make learning fun in the name of engagement undermines learning.

Learning may be difficult because you may not understand many exciting things until you first grasp certain boring things. Fun is a poor substitute to measure any educational process. At best, fun appears as a by-product. The real challenge is rediscovering the love for learning.

Let us spend more time exposing students to the excitement and beauty of learning rather than making extra efforts to make things fun. Meaning-making and value-finding can guide other class components such as games, movements, hands-on projects, collaboration, real-world cases, reflective activities and virtual spaces. The effort can be supported by feedback, alternative methods to assess student engagement and the use of thinking tools. Finally, the entire process can be augmented with technology.

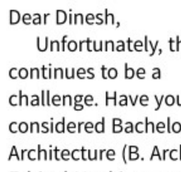
The idea is to paint a realistic picture of the complexity of the modern world and to equip the student to find his/her way. That is where educational energy gets a better return on investment for an uncertain future. So let fun take a back seat.

Views expressed are personal

The writer is Deputy Secretary, University Grants Commission.

Identify your strengths

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help



OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

I recently passed Class 12 (Science stream with Biology). I am interested in law and food production. Which one has more scope? Sneha

Dear Sneha,

Both choices are far apart, unless you want to be a lawyer in the food processing industry. Identify what you love and enjoy. I would recommend that you get an in-depth career profile done to understand your personality, aptitude and core interests before you choose your course.

I completed Class 12 (PCM) with 95% but am confused about what to do next. I am not interested in JEE, but my parents want me to opt for it. What do I do? Dinesh

Dear Dinesh,

Unfortunately, this continues to be a challenge. Have you considered Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch), Ethical Hacking courses or a B.Sc. across Physics, Chemistry, Agriculture, Maths, Statistics, Aviation, Geology, Product Design, Forensic Sciences, Computer Science, Defence Studies, Animation and Multimedia, Physical Sciences?

You can also try the National Defence Academy exams to join the Indian Army, Indian Air Force or Indian Navy.

Business Administration and Management Studies is another huge cluster, Humanities and Commerce subjects also offer some great career choices.

I completed my B.A. (hons) in Sociology Major and Psychology Minor and am currently pursuing MSW. In the second year, we have to choose a specialisation (options are Community Development, HRM, and Medical and Psychiatric Social Work). I am also a Civil Services aspirant and am confused about which one to choose. Which of these will help my UPSC exam preparations? Saloni

Dear Saloni,

All three choices are interesting. You must shortlist one in terms of what you inherently enjoy and will love to study, both at the course level and for the UPSC exam. Make a list of the pros and cons of each once you know the semester portions (with specific topics) for this year and make an informed choice.

I am a Political Science graduate. I want to travel and earn. The Indian Foreign Service excites me, but the syllabus includes Maths, which is my weakest point. I am stressed and demotivated. Is there any travelling-related career that I can pursue? Mahek

Dear Mahek,

Besides Maths being a weak link, the UPSC exam is also one of India's most difficult competitive exams. A single attempt can take a few years of preparation, from the prelims to the interview.

Jobs that allow you to travel are that of a flight attendant, a cruise ship worker, an international aid worker, a foreign service worker, or a tour guide.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line 'Off the edge'.

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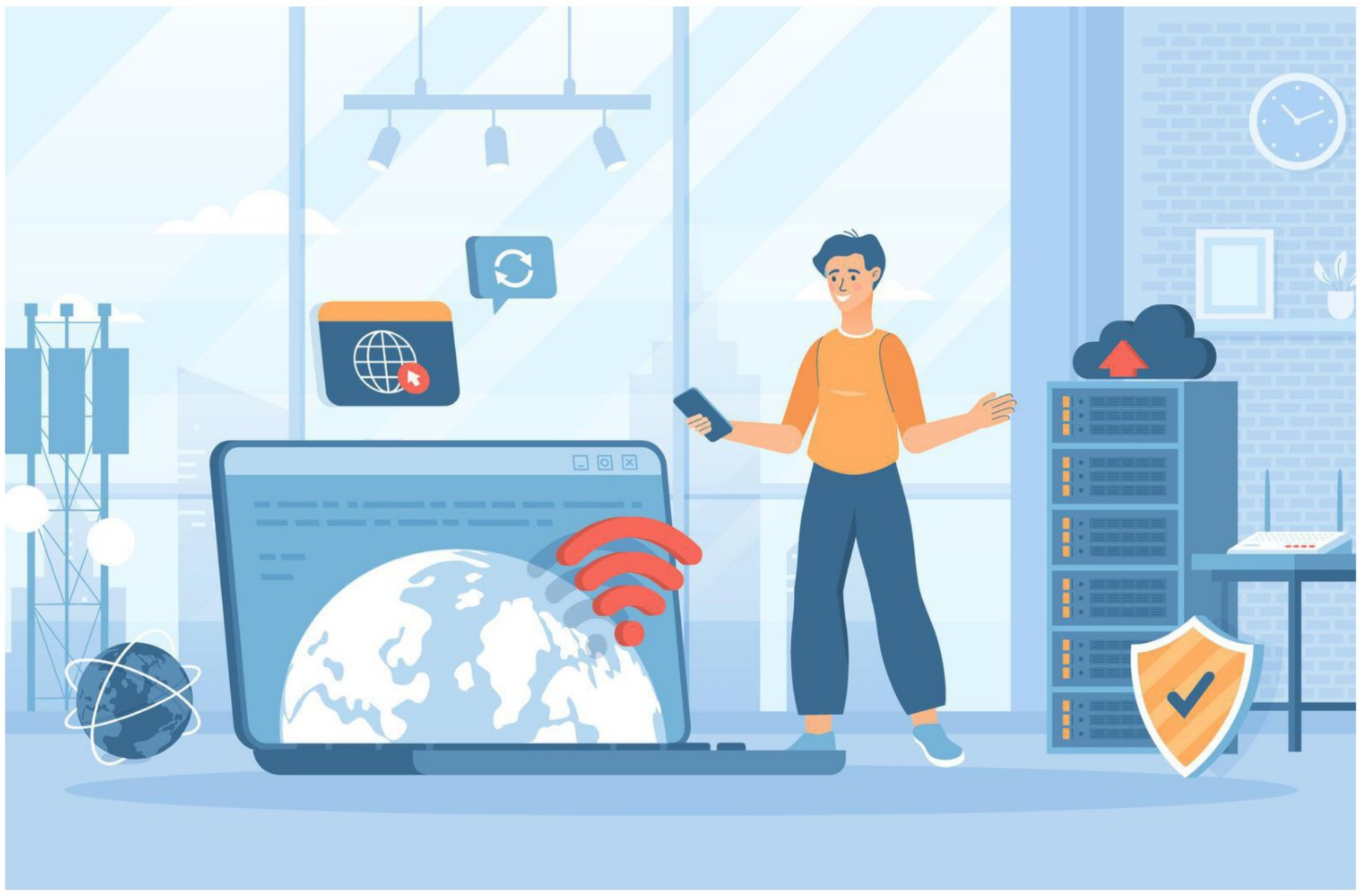

GETTY IMAGES

What is bluebugging, and how is it used to hack Bluetooth-enabled devices?

Several smartphones have their Bluetooth settings on discovery mode, as it is a default setting, making it easy for hackers to access the phones when they are within 10 metres from the device

Abhishek Chatterjee

The story so far:

Cybersecurity experts note that apps that let users connect smartphones or laptops to wireless earplugs can record conversations, and are vulnerable to hacks. Even the most secure smartphones like iPhones are vulnerable to such attacks. Any app with access to Bluetooth can record users' conversations with Siri and audio from the iOS keyboard dictation feature when using AirPods or Beats headsets, some app developers say. Through a process called bluebugging, a hacker can gain unauthorised access to these apps and devices and control them as per their wish.

What is bluebugging?

It is a form of hacking that lets attackers access a device through its discoverable Bluetooth connection. Once a device or phone is bluebugged, a hacker can listen to the calls, read and send messages and steal and modify contacts. It started out as a threat for laptops with Bluetooth capability. Later hackers used the technique to target mobile phones and other devices.

Independent security researcher Martin Herfurt blogged about the threat of bluebugging as early as 2004. He noted that the bug exploited a loophole in Bluetooth protocol, enabling it to download phone books and call lists from the attacked user's phone.

How does bluebugging hack devices?

Bluebugging attacks work by exploiting Bluetooth-enabled devices. The device's Bluetooth must be in discoverable mode, which is the default setting on most devices. The hacker then tries to pair with the device via Bluetooth. Once a connection is established, hackers can use brute force attacks to bypass authentication. They can install malware in the compromised device to gain unauthorised access to it. Bluebugging can happen whenever a Bluetooth enabled device is within a 10-metre radius of the hacker. However, according to a blog by VPN service provider NordVPN, hackers can use booster antennas to widen the attack range.

How can one prevent bluebugging ?

Turning off Bluetooth and disconnecting paired Bluetooth devices when not in use, updating the device's system software to the latest version, limited use of public Wi-Fi and using VPN as an additional security measure are some of the ways to prevent bluebugging, Shubho Pramanik, senior vice president, Applied Cloud Computing, a Thane based cloud service provider, said to *The Hindu*.

Most devices make Bluetooth discoverable by default, leaving your devices susceptible to unsolicited connections. So, the first step would be to make your Bluetooth devices undiscoverable from Bluetooth settings. This will keep them invisible to hackers, thereby not letting them pair with the device, NordVPN said in the blog.

Users must also watch out for suspicious activities on their devices, NordVPN suggested. "If your phone is suddenly disconnecting and reconnecting calls, or if you notice messages that haven't been sent by you, it could indicate that someone is controlling your device. Reset the device to its factory settings or uninstall any apps you don't recognise." One should also monitor sudden spikes in data usage. If the amount of data used suddenly spikes beyond reason, someone could be controlling the device as part of a botnet that eats up data, NordVPN said.

Modern anti-virus softwares can also help thwart such attacks. The new-age antivirus softwares are helping users to detect strange and spam-like content by filtering, blocking and consistently reminding people to be alert, Manoj Kumar Shastrula, CEO and Founder, SOCLY.io, a cybersecurity company told *The Hindu*.

Which devices are most susceptible to such attacks?

Any Bluetooth-enabled device can be bluebugged. Wireless earbuds are susceptible to such hacks. Apps that enable users to connect to their TWS (True Wireless Stereo) devices or earbuds can record conversations. The apps of these TWS devices can record conversations. Once hacked, the attacker can make and listen to calls, read and send messages, and modify or steal your contacts, Mr. Pramanik said.

Apple also acknowledged earlier that wireless earbuds can record conversations. "An app may be able to record audio using a pair of connected AirPods," Apple said on its support page while releasing the fixes to the issue. However, smartphones are more vulnerable to this type of hacking as most of the users leave their Bluetooth on in public places, where hackers may be lurking.

Today, several smartphones have their Bluetooth settings on discovery mode, making it easy for hackers to access the phones when they are within 10 metres from the device. Some earlier models of Bluetooth phones were vulnerable to bluebugging, but have since been corrected, Arindam Mitra, Co-founder, CTO and President of Services, ProcessIT Global, told *The Hindu*. However, devices with short PINs for a password can be easily cracked with brute-force computing and can also be vulnerable to these attacks, Mr. Mitra added.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The State of Gujarat is set to hold its elections from December 1 to 5. Here is a quiz on the State

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

Question 1
In which city did the British East India company set up its first factory in India?

Question 2
How do we better know Alamgir (Conqueror of the World) the sixth Mughal emperor who was born at Dahod in Gujarat?

Question 3
This market in Ahmedadbad is kept open 24 hours during "Uttarayan"(January) coinciding with an international festival. Name the market and the festival.

Question 4
Which Gujarati community[ies] is credited for keeping their folk music tradion alive; carrying forward the lineage of their hereditary profession?

Question 5
Which ancient city rediscovered in the excavations of 1954 has the oldest known port/dock?

Question 6
Which historical location appears on the logo of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation?

Visual question:
Identify this famous snack combo from Gujarat.

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the November 25 edition of the daily quiz: 1. Maradona represented Argentina in these many World Cups. **Ans: 4 (1982, 1986, 1990, 1994)**

2. In his maiden appearance, Maradona lost against these two teams in the second group stage. **Ans: Italy, Brazil**

3. This player is likely to beat Maradona's record of the number of matches played for Argentina in the World Cups. **Ans: Lionel Messi; 21 matches**

4. Maradona scored his first goal as captain against this team. **Ans: Italy; The match ended in a draw**

5. Maradona scored his 'goal of the century' against this goalkeeper. **Ans: Peter Shilton**

6. Maradona's last World Cup goal was against this team. **Ans: Greece**

Visual: In this edition of the World Cup, Maradona did not score a single goal. **Ans: 1990; Germany won that World Cup**

Early Birds: Vishi Sinha| M. Suresh Kumar| Bijo Paul

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

If my company is still in the red, I am going to leave

I think all of you should stay for the grand finale, it is going to be phenomenal!

S. Upendran

Why do we say, 'The company is in the black'? (K. Manjula, Secunderabad)

The expressions 'in the black' and 'in the red' originated in the business world, and have been part of the language since the beginning of the twentieth century. When you say that the company you are working for is in the black, what you are suggesting is that the company is doing well; it is making a profit. The opposite of this expression is 'in the red'. When a company is in the red, it is running at a loss; it is losing money. We all know that in English, the colour 'black' is seldom associated with anything good; it is always associated with something negative. When you are angry about something and are in a foul mood, you are said to be in a 'black mood'. Then you have words like 'blackmail', 'black magic', 'blacklist', 'blackball', etc. – all of which suggest that the colour is generally not associated with anything good. So, why is it that people are happy when they learn that their company is 'in the black'? It has to do with the way that ledgers were maintained in the past. For several centuries, accountants made use of two different types of ink when making an entry – black and red. All the credits (the money coming into the company) were written in black ink and the debits (the money going out of the company) were entered in red ink. So, if a ledger contained more entries in black ink than in red, it meant that the company had more money coming in than it had going out – the company was making money. The two expressions can be used with organisations and individuals. When you say you are in the black, it means that there is money in your bank account. In informal contexts, Americans tend to say 'in the ketchup' instead of 'in the red'.

The past two years have been bad. We hope to be in the black next year.

How is the word 'finale' pronounced? (V.S. Hemanth, Vellore)

There are two different ways of pronouncing this word. The 'i' in the first syllable and the 'e' in the final syllable are pronounced like the 'i' in 'hit', 'bit' and 'kit'. The vowel in the second syllable sounds like the 'ar' in 'dark', 'park' and 'shark'. One way of pronouncing the word is 'fi-NAA-li' with the stress on the second syllable. Some people pronounce the 'a' like the 'a' in 'cat', 'bat' and 'hat'. In this case, the word is pronounced 'fi-NA-li'. The word comes from the Latin 'finalis' meaning 'of or pertaining to an end'. It was originally used to refer to the last or concluding part of a piece of music. Nowadays, finale is used to refer to the concluding part of any performance; it is the final event in a series of events.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Cloying:
overly sweet

Synonyms:
treacly, syrupy, saccharine

Usage:
His flattery was so cloying that even the boss started getting uncomfortable

Pronunciation: bit.ly/cloyingpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: ˈklɔɪɪŋ

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

BDA to resume construction to add two lanes to Hebbal flyover with change in design

There is a proposal to dismantle the loop used by motorists coming from K.R. Puram side to enter the city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The traffic jam near Hebbal flyover in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The resumption of work to add two lanes to the Hebbal flyover is likely to impact vehicle movement at the junction which has one of the worst traffic bottlenecks in the city.

As per the recent decision taken by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), the work, to add two lanes that was stalled in 2019 after objections by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited, will be resumed in one or two weeks. A BDA official said the project would be continued with a change in design. Adding two lanes will help motorists coming from Kempegowda International Airport to the city.

"In 2019, after the BMRCL raised objections saying that adding two lanes would come in the way of the proposed Phase III metro project, the contractor was asked to stop the work," said the official.

"Out of the 43 pillars, 10 pillars were already constructed. Other than adding two lanes to the flyover, the contractor was also tasked with the construction of a unidirectional underpass that will help motorists coming from Tumakuru Road side to move towards K.R. Puram side. This project will also be taken up in the coming days," said the official.

The official said two lanes will be constructed parallel to the existing two lanes and the down ramp will end near Baptist Hospital linking main lanes of the road (towards Mehkri Circle).

Dismantling the loop

The official said in the coming days, the loop with two lanes that is located on the eastern part used by the motorists coming from K.R. Puram side to enter the city will be dismantled. Dismantling of the loop is likely to throw traffic out of gear as hundreds of vehicles use the two-lane loop to enter the city.

After dismantling the loop, motorists coming from the K.R. Puram side will be asked to take a U-turn under the existing flyover and take the loop (located on the left side near the park) to reach the main lanes of the flyover to enter the city. At present, this loop is used by motorists coming from Tumakuru Road side and vehicles coming from the service road of the national highway from Esteem Mall side. Allowing traffic coming from K.R. Puram is likely to create more chaos.

A BDA official said, "In future, there is a plan to build a flyover for the benefit of the vehicles coming from K.R. Puram linking it with national highway near the bus stop located opposite the Esteem Mall, and one branch of the flyover will be linked with the mainlines of Hebbal Flyover for motorists entering the city."

The official said for the future expansion of the Hebbal flyover, a separate tender will be floated.

The BDA held discussions with the BMRCL and communicated to the agency seeking written consent for resuming the work that was stalled in 2019. The official said work would be carried out after receiving the green signal.

Meanwhile, MD of the BMRCL Anjum Parwez said, "The phase III metro line from Kempapura to J.P. Nagar will go on level two at the Hebbal flyover. This means, the alignment will go above the existing flyover. We had communicated in the past that any project of the BDA at level 1 will not obstruct the future Namma Metro corridor."

Voter data 'theft': Civic officials say they were under political pressure

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City police, who have till date arrested 11 persons, are now focusing on the financial transactions of the trust

Police are now investigating the financial transactions of the Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust, accused of voter data theft, in an attempt to identify the beneficiaries of the crime, suspected to be prominent politicians.

Meanwhile, civic officials now in the dock, suspended and arrested, are crying foul alleging that they were under pressure from political masters to favour the trust, and were now being made scapegoats.

Money trail

City police, who have till date arrested 11 persons, including the founder trustees, employees of the trust and revenue officials, who allegedly facilitated data theft, are now focusing on the financial transactions of the trust.

"The stolen voter data would have eventually benefitted some politicians. We are trying to follow the money trail to identify them," a senior police official said.

The trust hired over 500 employees on short-term contracts and paid them salaries regularly, which is a huge financial transaction. Police have recovered a large cache of documents from the trust's offices and kingpin Krishnappa Ravikumar's residence, which are now being analysed to identify the politicians who may have funded these operations.

A senior police official said revenue officials now in the dock were found to have been taking orders from the trust's founder Krishnappa Ravikumar, indicating the kind of influence he wielded in the civic body, "not possible without the backing of those in power".

Political pressure

Meanwhile, civic officials, especially revenue officials across the city, are crying foul. "We have been suffering in this case due to political interference and that led to data theft. Without the intervention of political masters, such orders wouldn't have been issued for the trust. And now the blame is on officials, this is not right," a senior BBMP official told *The Hindu*, on condition of anonymity.

An internal inquiry by Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban, found that in the three Assembly constituencies Mahadevapura, Shivajinagar, and Chickpet, revenue officials had colluded with the trust and issued ID cards as block level coordinators, or in some cases block level officers, in clear violation of norms.

Harassment alleged

A. Amruth Raj, president of BBMP Officers and Employees' Association, said multiple agencies were conducting investigations into the alleged scandal and revenue officers, especially those conducting Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities, have complained to the association alleging harassment.

The association has now decided to meet Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday and give a complaint and ask him to hand over the investigation to one agency. "We will cooperate with the investigation so that the truth will come out and the people who are behind the data theft will be punished. But it should be done by a single investigation agency so that there will be no confusion," Mr Amruth Raj said.

Masked men burgle branch of Karnataka Gramin Bank

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A group of masked men burgled a branch of the Karnataka Gramin Bank in Hosahalli on the outskirts of the city, and made away with 15 kilograms of gold valuables worth ₹3.5 crore and ₹14 lakh cash on Saturday.

The accused entered the building by cutting the window grills with a gas cutter. They had made a recce of the area before committing the robbery on a bank holiday, police said. Though the bank had burglar alarms, they didn't go off.

The heist came to light when the staff reported for work the next day. The police are checking CCTV footage from in and around the area for clues to identify the accused, who were wearing monkey caps.

Night patrol staff are being questioned to ascertain if they had noticed any suspicious movements in and around the scene of crime.

DySP pens book on fingerprint technology

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To commemorate 125 years of the first ever fingerprint bureau in the world, which was established at Writers' Building in the then Calcutta in 1897, a Deputy Superintendent of Police with the bureau in Davanagere, Rudresh A.K., has come out with a book in Kannada on the forensic science of fingerprints.

Director General and Inspector General of Police, Praveen Sood, who released the book, said such educative works, especially in Kannada, were much needed, and would benefit the department.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, NOV. 28		
RISE	06:24	SET 17:51
RISE	10:48	SET 22:29
TUESDAY, NOV. 29		
RISE	06:25	SET 17:51
RISE	11:41	SET 23:30
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30		
RISE	06:25	SET 17:51
RISE	12:28	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	22
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night remains cool.

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THE HINDU
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Cybercriminals claim to home deliver liquor, scam customers

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Police said fraudsters are using names of well-known outlets in the neighbourhood to fool people

Pratishtha (name changed), a 29-year-old woman working in an IT company, complained to police that she lost ₹15,000 after she fell prey to an online liquor delivery fraud in October.

On a Google search for home delivery of liquor, she found the website of a well-known wine shop in central Bengaluru.

She dialled a number given on the website. The person, who took the call, identified himself as the manager of the outlet, and confirmed that they do home delivery of liquor.

She then ordered a bottle of wine costing ₹1,500. The 'manager' told her that he would send her a QR code which she should scan to pay the amount.

After scanning the code, she lost ₹15,000, and never got a reply from that number again.

The Karnataka Excise Act does not permit online sale or home delivery of liquor.

Police said there have been similar cases like her's reported, especially impersonating shops in the Central Business District.

Cybercriminals are using Google search options and Search Engine Optimisation to make their fake websites pop up while people search for home delivery of liquor and then siphoning off money from them, said police officials. In the last five months, at least 10 such cases have been reported, while many cases are not reported to the police.

Police said fraudsters are using names of well-known outlets in the neighbourhood to fool people.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, R. Srinivas Gowda, DCP (Central), Bengaluru, said, "The criminals are creating multiple websites of one prominent liquor store in the city to manipulate the Google search results, and phone numbers are added and when people call them they promise delivery of liquor, and then scam them during online payment."

The Bengaluru city police had earlier conducted awareness drives on social media about phishing attacks in the garb of home delivery of liquor. The liquor shop whose name has been misused has also taken to social media asking its customers to be careful.

Pride march marks 15 years in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Participants of the Ride with Pride event that was held in Bengaluru on Saturday. AFP

"Nanna Deha, Nanna Hakku", (My body, My rights), was the war cry at the Ride with Pride, 2022, held in the city on Sunday. This year, the pride march had the theme of "Pride and Protest", commemorating 15 years of the event in the city, and 25 years of struggle of the LGBTQ+ community.

This year too, there were roadblocks to the event. "Pandemic or not, rain or shine, pride happens. This year also pride happened," Priyank Sukhand, one of the organisers said. City police denied permission citing a recent Karnataka High Court order that banned all rallies in the city.

So, the Coalition for Sex Workers and Sexual Minorities' Rights, one of the organisers, said they converted the march into a Ride with Pride event. Members of the LGBTQ+ community gathered at Freedom Park at 2 p.m. from where they drove in a bus to Samsa Bayalu Rangamandira. "1, 2, 3, 4 Open up the closet door, 5, 6, 7, 8 don't assume your kids are straight", the voices echoed in unison at the event. This was a culmination of a month-long celebrations, that included queer potluck and film screenings.

This time, attendance for the event was high compared to the two previous years, even in the number of foreign nationals. Expats from England, Mexico, Russia, and various other countries, presently residing in Bengaluru participated in the event. "This is my first experience of being at the Pride event, something that is not possible back home in Russia. I feel more comfortable here," said Sasha, an expat from Russia.

Many who were part of the event said though Section 377 was abolished, there was much that needed to be done, including recognition of property rights, for adopting children, inclusivity and advancement in education where children would be taught how to engage with a person from the community and normalize the LGBTQ+ community at large.

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INBRIEF

Lawyer files complaint against Baba Ramdev

Athani-based lawyer and Congress leader Bheemanagouda Paragonda has filed a complaint against Baba Ramdev for his recent comments that have allegedly insulted women. In a complaint sent to the National Commission for Women, Mr. Paragonda alleged that the yoga guru had insulted women during his speech at an event in Thane, Maharashtra, on November 26.

"I request you to take strict legal action against Baba Ramdev. The nation's legal system should set an example to such offenders to prove that such comments cannot be tolerated," he said in his complaint.

Vishnuvardhan memorial will be opened before Dec.: CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that the memorial being built for popular Kannada movie star Vishnuvardhan in Mysuru would be inaugurated before December. The announcement came after his visit to the newly constructed house of the late actor at Jayanagar here. He was received at the house by the late actor's wife, Bharathi Vishnuvardhan, and other family members.

The Chief Minister said details of the memorial were being discussed with the family members, and final details would be announced shortly. "The memorial is in the final stages of completion. We will inaugurate it to match the stature of the late star," he said.

Kannada University dean dies in road accident

C.S. Vasudevan, dean of social sciences at Kannada University, Hampi, died in a road accident at Jagalur near Davangere on Saturday night. He was 59.

He was driving the car that rammed into a lorry parked on the Bengaluru-Pune national highway. He died on the spot. Three others, including his son, were injured. A case has been registered.

Mr. Vasudevan was the author of the Hampi World Heritage Area Guidebook and usually accompanied all the foreign dignitaries who visited Hampi and explained to them the historical facts about the monuments.

Vokkaligas set deadline for increasing reservation

They want the government to increase the quota for the community from 4% to 12% in the OBC reservation matrix before January 23; petition handed over to Revenue Minister R. Ashok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Adichunchanagiri Mutt seer Nirmalananda Swami, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, and the former Union Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda during a Vokkaliga community meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The BJP, which has been wooing the Vokkaliga community for a crucial foothold in the electoral politics in the Old Mysore region, is in a spot of bother. Already under pressure from Lingayat groups – its traditional support base – over the reservation issue, the BJP government now faces a deadline of January 23, 2023, to consider an increase in quota for Vokkaligas from the current 4% to 12% in the OBC reservation matrix.

In 3A category

On Sunday, Vokkaliga community religious and political leaders from across the political spectrum met at a convention to demand an increase in the reservation that will be in proportion to the population, and also consider the urban Vokkaliga poor under the newly formed reservation quota for EWS that stands at 10%. Currently, Vokkaligas are in 3A category and receive 4% reservation quota, which the community points out will trickle into about 2.5% since the quota has to be shared with other communities.

Among the influential seers of the community, Nanjavadhhota Swami said, "The community has waited enough and its patience has been tested. We will give a petition to the government and wait till January 23 for it to respond. If our demands are not met, we will plunge into agitation mode," he said. Adichunchanagiri Mutt seer Nirmalananda Swami also asked for a hike in reservation and said that the community remains united in its demand.

A formal petition was handed over to Revenue Minister R. Ashok, who attended the meeting. The former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda said that efforts would be made to convince the Centre to enhance the reservation for the community.

For the government, which increased the reservation quota of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes from 15% to 17% and 3% to 7%, respectively, in line with their population recently, the reservation conundrum is giving it a headache. While the Panchamasalis, a powerful Lingayat sub-sect and a major supporter of the BJP, has been seeking 2A status in OBC reservation category, another powerful OBC community, Kurubas, are demanding a shift from 2A category to the ST category. The mainstream Veerashaiva-Lingayats have been demanding inclusion of all the sub-sects in the Central OBC list.

Vokkaliga Sangha sources said that the religious seers and the sangha were under constant pressure for not uniting and demanding a reservation hike even as other community leaders were seen uniting to seek a higher pie in the reservation matrix. "Sunday's meeting will now will be a benchmark to take the agitation forward." Vokkaliga Sangha president and Janata Dal (Secular) legislator C.N. Balakrishna and KPCC president and Chief Ministerial aspirant D.K. Shivakumar were among those who said that they were not opposed to the hike in reservation quota for SC/ST, but asked for a fair quota for the Vokkaliga community depending on the population.

Covert jostling in Cong. to become CM candidate comes to light again

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While Byrathi Suresh declared Siddaramaiah as the next Chief Minister, Shivakumar appealed to Vokkaligas to back him for the post

The covert jostling in the Opposition Congress for the leadership role and Chief Ministerial position between camps of Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar has continued. This is despite strict warnings by the Congress leadership against bringing the leadership issue into the public narrative which can mar the party's efforts to project a picture of unity ahead of the crucial Assembly elections in 2023.

On Sunday, while Congress MLA for Hebbal Byrathi Suresh, a supporter of the former Chief Minister, declared Mr. Siddaramaiah as the next Chief Minister, Mr. Shivakumar appealed to Vokkaligas, a community he belongs to, to back him for the role of the Chief Minister.

Rousing welcome

At a Kanakadasa Jayanti event here, Mr. Suresh said Mr. Siddaramaiah would be the future Chief Minister, and people want him to be the Chief Minister. This incidentally came in the presence of Mr. Siddaramaiah, who had earlier relished a rousing welcome by hundreds of his supporters.

On Sunday, at a meeting organised by the Vokkaliga Sangha to formulate their fight to seek an increase in reservation for the community, Mr. Shivakumar, who has been a strong Chief Ministerial contender, said, "Looking at the enthusiasm, it looks like you will make us sit in the Vidhana Soudha. Use me however you want to. The opportunity has come to your doorstep; do not lose it. I do not know what you will do. Give me the pen and paper, and I know how to help the community."

His request for the community support – coming for the second time – is being seen to rally Vokkaligas behind him that could eventually help him become the Chief Minister. "After S.M. Krishna (a fellow Vokkaliga and former KPCC president and Chief Minister), the Congress has made me the KPCC president. That is because I belong to this community," he reminded the gathering."

Border row: CM meets with legal team ahead of case date

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid a war of words between BJP leaders in Karnataka and Maharashtra over the border row in the past week, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who on Sunday reviewed the State's legal preparation ahead of the case coming up in Supreme Court this week, exuded confidence of Karnataka's interest being protected in the court.

The case filed by Maharashtra is expected to come up before the apex court on November 30. While the Chief Minister had earlier announced convening an all-party meeting to discuss an out-of-the-court discussion as proposed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, he said that a convenient date would be fixed in the next three to four days after speaking to Home Minister Araga Jnanendra. Sources in the Chief Minister's office said that the government was in a fix over scheduling the all-party meeting for want of time before the hearing, but decided to go ahead with it. The sources also said that Opposition leader Siddaramaiah had been kept in the loop on the steps taken by the State.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah has also called for a strong legal team to defend Karnataka's case in the Supreme Court. Speaking to reporters here on Sunday, he said that he would make suggestions at the all-party meeting.

The sources said that the State had already set up a five-member legal team, comprising Mukul Rohtagi, Uday Holla, and Shyam Divan, among others.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Silent war continues

A silent war between two Karnataka Congress leaders – the former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar – seems unlikely to end anytime soon.

By announcing the application of one-person, one ticket rule for those who want to contest from the party in the upcoming Assembly elections, Mr. Shivakumar has asserted that he is the boss in the State Congress.

Apparently, he also dropped sufficient hints to Mr. Siddaramaiah that he cannot be given the ticket this time to contest from two constituencies like he was in 2018.

A few days ago, the KPCC chief also said that it was neither he nor Mr. Siddaramaiah who would decide on the ticket. In response to Mr. Siddaramaiah naming five candidates and urging people to vote for them next year, Mr. Shivakumar said it was only the AICC, the central decision-making body, that is authorised to announce the names of candidates.

Will the Gujarat model apply here?

When the ruling BJP in Gujarat dropped 38 incumbent MLAs in its list of candidates for the Assembly elections scheduled in December, tremors were felt in

Karnataka too. The State would go to polls in April-May and the ruling BJP seems to be looking for an image makeover. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and some of his Cabinet colleagues are said to have received suggestions from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh on the necessity of boosting the image of the government, which has been facing charges of corruption.

The tweet from Lahar Singh Siroya *(in picture)*, Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, that "what has happened in Gujarat should serve as a model in Karnataka too" sounds ominous. Further, Mr. Siroya tweeted that the dropping of MLAs in Gujarat "is a commendable move to strengthen democracy by allowing a smooth generational change". Will senior leaders in the BJP make way for younger candidates is the moot question.

Seeking ban on 'inter-district' marriage

It seems that young men who have chosen agriculture as the profession have a problem on hand – not finding girls to marry.

While this issue has come to the fore many times from many regions, an unmarried farmer of Muduvatti village in Kolar district, M.K. Dhananjaya Kumar, decided to escalate the issue when the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy came on a tour of his village. He requested the JD(S) leader to include in the party's manifesto "curbing of inter-district marriages" and implement it strictly when the party comes to power after the next Assembly polls.

In the petition, the farmer said, "Across the district, there are no brides to be found for youths belonging to the farming community and most of them have crossed 35, 40, and 45 years of age." The farmers' grouse is that most of the parents wish to fix their daughters' marriage with grooms who hail from other districts and bigger cities. This so called "shortage of brides" was flagged again when grooms of the Vokkaliga community, at a matrimonial meet in Mandya, turned up in huge numbers. There were over 10,000 bridegrooms belonging to the farming community, but girls who turned up were about 500.

Nagesh Prabhu
Jayanth R.

Two of the three domes on Mysuru bus shelter removed

The bus stop on the Mysuru-Nanjangud highway whose design with multiple domes had led to a controversy. M.A. SRIRAM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The row over multiple domes on a bus stop in Mysuru which had led to a fracas between Pratap Simha, BJP MP, and S.A. Ramdas, party MLA, has subsided for now with the authorities removing two smaller domes flanking the central dome which has been retained.

Mr. Simha had threatened to demolish the domes of the bus shelter opposite the JSS College on the Mysuru–Nanjangud highway on the grounds that "they resembled a mosque" while Mr. Ramdas had reiterated that it was inspired by the Mysuru palace.

The issue even reached Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai who had announced the constitution of an "expert committee" to identify any design flaws. Mr. Ramdas had vowed to pay for the demolition in case there were design flaws.

But it transpired that the smaller domes were removed overnight and Mr. Ramdas issued a statement that he did not want further controversies and nor wanted the bus stop to emerge as a disputed site.

"Though the bus stop design was inspired by the palace it was needlessly given a religious tone and has caused me anguish," said Mr. Ramdas. The decision to remove them was taken after discussions with seniors and "in the interest of development" and it should not be construed otherwise, he added. Besides 12 bus shelters with similar design are also planned in the Krishanraja constituency, he added.

Mr. Simha took to Twitter to "thank the DC" and Mr. Ramdas for "heeding to public opinion".

Bommai says Siddaramaiah has a 'jihadi mindset'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, who is alleged to have opposed the singing of Vande Mataram at a Congress function recently, came under attack from Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who on Sunday, said that it shows the jihadi mindset.

"The opposition to sing Vande Mataram by the Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah shows that he is more interested in breaking the society for power than the unity of the nation," Mr. Bommai tweeted.

This was in response to a video clip purportedly of the Constitution Day celebrations at the Congress office where he is heard saying singing of the song is not needed when party workers were preparing to sing. Later, he is heard saying that the song can be rendered.

The Chief Minister said: "Opposing a song that has been accepted by all communities in the country shows the jihadi mindset." He said, "British had opposed the song and Mr. Siddaramaiah joins the list of those who opposed it."

Apology sought

"He has to offer an apology for attempting to hurt the unity sentiments of the people," Mr. Bommai said.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Suman Chand D/O Hira Chand R/O 201, Orchid, Rakesh Fantasy Garden, 2nd Main, Kasturi Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560043 have changed my name to Summan Chand for all future purpose

I, AMUDAMMA, R/at No.56, Rampura Bidarahalli Hobli, Virgonagar Post, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka-560049, have changed my name from Amudamma to Amudamma Ramdas Naidu vide affidavit dated 25-11-2022 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

I, MANJUNATH, R/at No.2, Hunagund Road, Gudur, Hunagund, Bagalkot, Karnataka-587202, have changed my name from Manjunath to Manjunath Patil vide affidavit dated 25-11-2022 before Notary Sivakumara.M. N, Bengaluru.

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A BG-BGE

Muslim homes make goods for Sabarimala pilgrims

SPECIAL

Hiran Unnikrishnan
KOTTAYAM

Just days before the pilgrimage season at Sabarimala kicks off every year, there is a bustle in the narrow, concrete lanes in the Mattannoorkkara Lakshamveedu Colony at Erumely. Chicken feathers coloured in red, sets of cords dyed in sharp black, and uniquely carved wooden pieces are strewn all along these pathways or kept in bundles in front of houses.

Ever since the emergence of Erumely as a key base station for Sabarimala pilgrims from other States, the colony has become the sole hub of paraphernalia-making for the pilgrimage season. More than 90% of the *Sharakkol* (arrows), *Vaal* (swords), *Gada* (clubs), and *Kachha* (black cord) that are sold through the seasonal shops here come from the colony, an overwhelmingly Muslim area.

Koya Thengummoottil, a 78-year-old resident, is regarded as the most senior craftsman in this business. "I have been making Sabarimala-related paraphernalia for nearly five decades. The last two years were particularly depressing. However, the business this year has been extraordinary so far. It looks like we will soon run out of stock," he said.

Working hands: Koya Thengummoottil and his wife Suhara Beevi making articles for Sabarimala pilgrims at Erumely. VISHNU PRATHAP

The business had grown sharply over the past two decades. "The number of devotees visiting Erumely, especially from the neighbouring States, has recorded a considerable surge during this period," he added.

Price difference

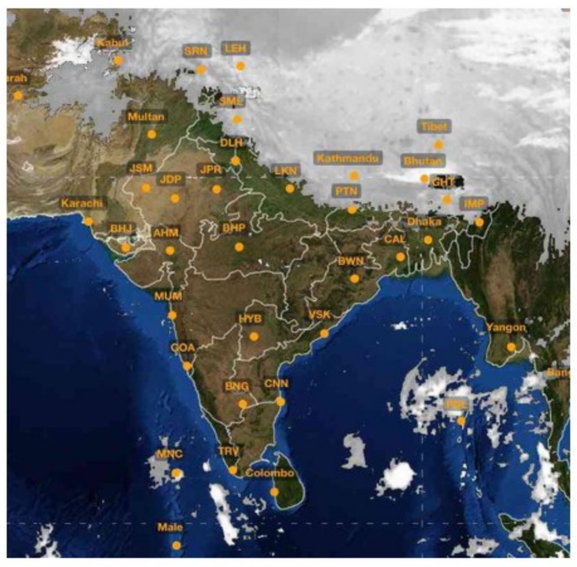
The articles made at the houses here are sold to the shops that function only during the two-month long Mandalam-Makaravilakku season. While these materials are procured at nominal rates (₹1.50 per *Sharakkol* and ₹4 for clubs, for instance), they are sold at a price several times higher to the pilgrims, said Biju, a vendor in Erumely.

V.R. Sashi, a plantation worker who turns into paraphernalia-manufacturing during the pilgrimage season every year, said about 10 lakh *Sharakkols*, over four lakh wooden arrows, and an equal number of swords are manufactured in the colony during the season. Each of the 32 families engaged in the business here earn an average of ₹50,000 while the actual business in the open market is worth several crores of rupees.

"All families here, irrespective of their religion or age, turn to paraphernalia-making round the clock throughout the season. More than just an occupation, this has been our way of life for generations," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.6	16.6	Kozhikode	9.0	33.6	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	31.4	12.6	Kurnool	—	33.7	21.1
Aizawl	—	26.9	10.7	Lucknow	—	27.3	13.2
Allahabad	—	28.3	12.3	Madurai	—	34.0	24.4
Bengaluru	—	28.2	20.0	Mangaluru	—	30.7	24.2
Bhopal	—	—	9.8	Mumbai	—	32.8	24.0
Bhubaneswar	—	28.0	14.8	Mysuru	—	30.0	19.4
Chandigarh	—	26.3	9.6	New Delhi	—	26.2	8.5
Chennai	—	—	23.6	Patna	—	28.3	18.4
Coimbatore	—	31.3	22.6	Port Blair	—	30.1	24.4
Dehradun	—	29.7	11.2	Puducherry	4.4	32.1	22.7
Gangtok	—	19.2	9.7	Pune	—	31.3	19.5
Goa	—	33.6	24.6	Raipur	—	29.0	9.6
Guwahati	—	29.2	16.4	Ranchi	—	26.1	11.0
Hubballi				Shillong	—	23.9	10.5
Hyderabad	—	29.9	15.4	Shimla	—	18.6	9.1
Imphal	—	26.5	9.2	Srinagar	—	14.0	-2.1
Jaipur	—	28.3	11.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.4	23.6
Kochi	1.0	31.2	24.6	Tiruchi	3.0	32.5	24.0
Kohima	—	22.2	8.4	Vijayawada	—	31.0	21.4
Kolkata	—	28.6	17.5	Visakhapatnam	—	30.0	20.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.49	102	..8	 54	86	.....
Bengaluru	...8	5	40	... 140	...107	.....
Chennai	.17	..37	43	... 187	...122	.....
Delhi	.22	107	20	... 373	...279	.....
Hyderabad	...3	..49	40	... 165	...146	.....
Kolkata	.26	..88	41	... 295	...203	.....
Lucknow	.15	..60	37	... 283	...208	.....
Mumbai	.17	..28	48	... 306	...197	.....
Pune	..—	..—	.—	..... —	.....—	.....
Visakhapatnam	.24	102	70	... 215	...204	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bettiah, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 445 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KCR to lay foundation stone for Airport Express Metro

Telangana government will totally fund the ₹6,250 crore 31-km project, says Minister K.T. Rama Rao in a tweet; work to be launched on December 9

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will be laying the foundation stone for the much awaited 31-km Hyderabad Airport Express metro rail from Mindspace Junction/Raidurg to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) at Shamshabad totally funded by the government and estimated to cost ₹6,250 crore, on December 9.

This was announced by Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister K.T. Rama Rao in a tweet on Sunday. The 'fast metro' with limited halts from Mindspace Junction will be built along the Gachibowli main road median, along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) till near the GMR Airport terminal and is expected to be completed in three years.

The Airport Express Metro project is expected to be completed in three years. FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

The Airport Express Metro Corridor takes off from Raidurg Metro terminal station at Mindspace Junction, passes through Biodiversity Junction, Kazaguda road and touches Nanakramguda junction on the Outer Ring Road (ORR).

"There is a dedicated Metro Rail Right of Way (RoW) in the ORR and the Airport Express Metro Corridor will be taken to Shamshabad International Airport through this," said Hyderabad Metro Rail and also Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited MD N.V.S. Reddy on Sunday, in a press release.

Bust of first Chief of Defence Staff to be installed in Delhi

Nahla Nainar
TIRUCHI

The efforts of ex-servicemen from Cuddalore district to pay homage to the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat, who died in a helicopter crash in Coonoor on December 8, 2021, are finally bearing fruit as the 'panchaloha' bust commissioned by them is set to be installed on the premises of the United Service Institution of India (USI) Complex at Shankar Vihar, Delhi, next month.

A delay in getting clearance from the authorities had slowed things down, said S. Babu, an official of the Cuddalore-based Shine Indian Soldiers Social Welfare Foundation, which is executing the tribute with the support of ex-servicemen in the district. "After announcing the project in January, we hoped to finish it by mid-year and take the statue on a road trip from Cuddalore to Delhi, stopping in eight States along the way. Since we did not have complete clearance for the installation in the capital until this week, we had to change our plans accordingly," he told *The Hindu*. A letter authorising the installation was issued on November 25 by the Ceremonial and Welfare Department, Adjutant-General's Branch at the Army Headquarters.

Cases registered against Archbishop, priests in Vizhinjam violence case

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A day after violent clashes broke out between those opposing and supporting the Vizhinjam International Seaport at the project site here, the police on Sunday registered cases against more than 50 persons, including priests of the Thiruvananthapuram Archdiocese of the Catholic Church (Latin rite) and action council members.

Cases were registered against Archbishop Thomas J. Netto, Auxiliary Bishop Christudas, and vicar-general Eugene Pereira in connection with the violence. The Kerala government's decision to arraign the priests who spearheaded the agitation against the port project and coordinators of the action council by invoking charges such as criminal conspiracy, attempt to murder, unlawful assembly, rioting, and voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servants from discharging their duty has evoked a sharp response from the protesters.

Protesters' demands

By evening, a large group of protesters gathered in front of the Vizhinjam police station, vandalised four police vehicles parked in the area and held police personnel hostage. They then attacked people who tried to shoot the visuals.

Although senior police officers who rushed to the spot tried to disperse the protesters from the site, they refused to go back insisting that the five taken into custody be released and that cases foisted against the priests be withdrawn.

The district administration deployed a large posse of police force at the project site and vicinity of the police station.

Earlier in the day, after much dilly-dallying, the police charged eight cases against the protesters and two cases against the port supporters for rioting and destroying public property worth ₹2 lakh. The State government has reportedly decided to recover from the archdiocese the loss suffered by the port developer Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt. Ltd. (AVPL) because of the strike. In the morning, a circular was read out at churches under the archdiocese urging believers to strengthen the stir.

Church stance

Meanwhile, Mr. Pereira alleged that the government was trying to sabotage the stir by whipping up tension and arraigning priests and fishermen. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan criticised the police decision to register cases against the bishop and senior priests who were not physically present at the protest site on Saturday.

Three arrested for thrashing college student

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The city police have arrested three youngsters for abusing and thrashing a male college student inside a private bus and forcing him to alight, for travelling regularly with a girl student of another faith in the city on November 24.

The girl travelling with him is said to be his classmate.

The police identified the accused as Muthu, 18, Prakash, 21, both from Surathkal, and Rakesh, 23, from Asaigoli. They are suspected to be Hindutva activists though they have not claimed to be associated with any organisation, a police official said. They have been charged under Sections 323, 324, 504, 506 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

In a complaint filed with the Mangaluru East police, the victim, Sayyed Rasheem Umar, 20, a student of a private educational institute in Karkala, Udupi district, said he was travelling in Padmambika bus from Karkala to Mangaluru via Nitte when the group of men suddenly rushed into the bus at about 4 p.m. at Nanthoor Junction in the city. They abused him, issued a life threat if he told anyone about the incident and forced him to alight from the bus. They thrashed him using canes and sticks, the student said.

Three booked for alleged bid to convert woman in Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Women Police of Mangaluru have registered cases of assault and criminal intimidation of a woman and forcible conversion to another religion, against two men and a woman on Saturday.

The police identified he accused as Khalil, Jamila, and Aiman. The complainant, a 22-year-old Hindu woman, told the police that she was working in a fancy store at Bikarnakatte in the city. Khalil befriended her and offered her a new job with more salary. He took her to Kallapu, converted her to Islam and taught her the Koran after changing her name to Ayesha.

He later took her to Jamila's residence at Kankanady and made her work there for 8 months. Jamila forced her to wear burkha. Aiman, who came in contact with her, too forced the complainant to have an affair with him. She alleged Khalil attempted to outrage her modesty.

The police registered cases under the IPC and Sections 3 and 5 of The Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Ordinance, 2022. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Anshu Kumar said investigation was on and the accused would be arrested soon.

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The interested firm having experiences of either providing similar services or supply of OCTG may visit the website of ONGC 'tenders.ongc.co.in' for details.
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The EOI meet shall be held on 19th December 2022 at 1430 hrs at 11 High, ONGC, Mumbai. Interested bidders are requested to convey their willingness to participate in the EOI meet along with the names and e-mail id of the participants on or before 12th December 2022 to the following e-mail ids.
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On behalf of the President of India, item rate e-tender are invited for the following works:
Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of new distribution panels by replacing the old existing distribution panels at LEOS-1 Campus, Peenya, Bengalore-58. E-Tender Notice No: LEOS/CMG/EW-09/2022-23 Dtd:22.11.2022. Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. : Rs. 155.42 Lakhs EMD Rs: 3,10,840/- Period of Completion in months : 05 months Tender document can be downloaded from : Opening Date : 28.11.2022 Closing Date : 12.12.2022
Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of new changeover panel by replacing the existing changeover panel at Substation, LEOS-1 Campus, Peenya, Bengalore-58. E-Tender Notice No: LEOS/CMG/EW-10/2022-23 Dtd:22.11.2022. Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. : Rs. 65.24 Lakhs EMD Rs: 1,30,480/- Period of Completion in months : 04 months Tender document can be downloaded from : Opening Date : 28.11.2022 Closing Date : 12.12.2022
Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Providing Earth links at LEOS & Aryabhatta Campus, Peenya, Bengaluru-560058 E-Tender Notice No: LEOS/CMG/EW-08/2022-23 Dtd: 22.11.2022. Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. : Rs. 5.09 Lakhs EMD Rs: 10,180/- Period of Completion in months : 04 months Tender document can be downloaded from : Opening Date : 29.11.2022 Closing Date : 13.12.2022
Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Proposed covered Rain protection walkway works at LEOS campus Peenya, Bengaluru-58 E-Tender Notice No: CMG/LEOS/2022-23/LMN-12 Dtd: 22.11.2022. Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. : Rs. 8.04 Lakhs EMD Rs: 16,073/- Period of Completion in months : 45 Days Tender document can be downloaded from : Opening Date : 28.11.2022 Closing Date : 07.12.2022
Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO
-Sd- GROUP DIRECTOR, CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG) URSC, BANGLAORE.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from Sri. S. SHIVAPPA, S/o. Sri. Seenappa, residing at No. 10, Gopalakrishnaswamy Temple Road, Dwarakanagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Hosakerehalli, Bengaluru-560085. Anybody has got any sort of right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said transaction shall approach the under mentioned Advocate within 7 days from this day with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL the vacant residential property bearing site No.12, earlier having challgatta Khata No. 53, New No. 739/739, situated at Challghatta village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru, presently within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, Kengeri Sub Division, having property No. 53/12 and measuring East to West on the Northern side 65 Feet, on the Southern side 55 feet and North to South 40 Feet., in all measuring 2400 Sq. Feet.,
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N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
48/1, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Opp: Canara Bank, Vallabha Nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-61.
Ph No. 9343094442, 080-41628629

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(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/F-/22-23/8118-20 & 8125 Date: 25.11.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement Mode Only)
KPTCL invites bids for the follwing works:
1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/ Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/ 22-23/EPR-26/CALL-02 Dtd:08.06.2022 for the work of replacement of faulty insulators in 66kV Somanahalli-Jigani-02 line from Kasaraguppe Tapping Tower to Jigani old station in the jurisdiction of TLM Subdivision Somanahalli on total turnkey basis.
2) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/ BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/ 22-23/EPR-32/Call-03 Dated: 08.07.2022 for "Strengthening of Earthing in various substations coming under Transmission(M), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru".
The Bids will be received through 'E' Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink 'e-Procurement-KPTCL' or to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 28.11.2022.
Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ South Circle,
KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

Shifts unexplained

System of shuffling High Court judges without consent needs reconsideration

The common criticism that the functioning of the Collegium system of judicial appointments is opaque, and sometimes arbitrary, seems to hold greater validity in the matter of transfers of judges from one High Court to another. A recent round of transfers – among the dozens that have been effected in the last few years – has brought the controversial issue to the fore again. The list included three judges from the Telangana High Court, and two each from the Madras and Andhra Pradesh High Courts. Conspicuously absent was the name of Justice Nikhil S. Kariel, a Gujarat High Court judge whose proposed transfer was strongly opposed by the bar in that State. Lawyers took up the issue in support of Justice Kariel, as well as Justice A. Abhishek Reddy of the Telangana High Court, and the Chief Justice of India met with representatives of the Bar from both States. Yet, the transfer of Justice Kariel alone did not materialise, while the transfers of other judges were notified. If reports that the Gujarat High Court Chief Justice was unaware of the impending transfer of Justice Kariel are correct, it bodes ill for the legitimacy of transfer proposals. No good message is being sent if it is perceived that the Collegium heeds the demand made by one set of lawyers, but ignores that of another group.

Transfer of judges may be needed for exchange of talent across the country and to prevent the emergence of local cliques in the judiciary. However, the power of transfer has always been seen as a possible threat to judicial independence. Even under the Collegium system, it seems it is difficult to dispel the impression that the threat of transfer hangs over every judge's head. The Memorandum of Procedure is clear that a judge's consent is not necessary to effect a transfer. The current norm is that all transfers ought to be in public interest, that is, for better administration of justice throughout the country. It also says the personal factors of the judge, including his preference of places, should invariably be taken into account. No one knows if these requirements are fulfilled in each case. Why a puisne judge should be shifted to another State without being made a Chief Justice is seldom explained. Usually, it sets off speculation that the reasons are either allegations against the judge or the discomfiture that his judicial orders are causing to the government. Disclosure of the actual reason may not always be possible. However, it hardly needs to be stressed that transfer cannot be used as a punitive step. The time may have come for a complete review of the provisions for transfer of High Court judges.

A new era

Anwar Ibrahim will have to deliver on his progressive agenda for Malaysia

Once a rising star within the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO). And then a rebel reformer thrown into prison by his former boss. The story of Anwar Ibrahim is that of power, revolt, incarceration and comeback. In the ups and downs of his long career, Mr. Anwar never gave up on his political activism or faith in his movement, Reformasi (Reform), which has finally taken him to the office that evaded him for over two decades. In last week's elections, his coalition Pakatan Harapan (PH, Alliance of Hope), emerged as the largest bloc in Parliament following which Malaysia's King appointed the 75-year-old leader as the Prime Minister. In the 1990s, Mr. Anwar, then the Deputy Prime Minister, was seen as the obvious successor of the all-powerful Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. But their differences and his calls for reform within UMNO and the government led to his downfall. He was jailed over sodomy charges, which he denies. Two jail terms later, Mr. Anwar, in 2018, joined hands with Dr. Mahathir, and managed to oust from power the UMNO, which was grappling with corruption scandals. Dr. Mahathir, who became the Prime Minister again, gave Mr. Anwar a pardon but refused to share power with him, pushing the country into political instability. But this time, Mr. Anwar is free of legal hurdles and does not face any immediate challenge to his claim to power.

The election results, however, also showed Malaysia's polarising polity. This is the first time Malaysians voted in a hung Parliament. Mr. Anwar's bloc (PH), which promised corruption-free governance and protection of minority rights, won 82 seats of the 222-member Assembly. Former Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's Perikatan Nasional (PN) got 73 seats, while Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob's Barisan Nasional (BN) – dominated by UMNO – was defeated with its 30 seats. While the result clearly underscored growing resentment towards UMNO, it also showed the rise of the Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS), which is part of the Perikatan coalition. The PAS, which won 49 seats on its own, wants a theocratic Islamic rule in Malaysia and religious interpretation of the Constitution. Perhaps the biggest challenge Mr. Anwar faces is the growing polarisation of Malaysian society. As an opposition leader, he campaigned for equality and minority rights and questioned corruption and cronyism. Now, as Prime Minister, he has to translate them into action. And he has to do so when his government would be dependent on coalition partners for majority in Parliament and at a time when Islamist forces that challenge his progressive agenda are on the rise. A tall ask indeed.

Imaginative pasts, the uncertain futures of historians

Janaki Nair

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In a landscape already crowded with flexi-banners of Bengaluru's Members of the Legislative Assembly or a smiling Puneeth Rajkumar (the actor), flag poles, statuary and immense amounts of commercial clutter, comes the latest towering addition of Kempegowda I. A chieftain of the 16th century, widely credited with the founding of Bengaluru in 1537, has been immortalised in a 108-foot bronze 'Statue of Prosperity'. This comes years after the city's new airport at Devanahalli was named after Kempegowda, though few outside Karnataka knew about him; now his towering presence at the airport should leave no visitor in doubt.

No place for the historian

Can the professional historian of Karnataka any longer be heard over the din and the roar of those who claim to speak about the State, its heroes and their pasts? The historian is confined to researching, writing, and perhaps in some lucky cases, teaching about complex, contentious and conflicted pasts. These are paltry resources against those who, with State, party or community backing, aggressively deluge social media, install statues, build new structures to commemorate their heroes (alas, usually men) – or plan agitations for the take-over of established religious sites, to denigrate the 'villains' of the past (alas, usually Muslims). Colourful assertions in videos and plays have infinitely greater appeal than a defiantly dull dissertation. And they are blissfully free of any obligation to historical objectivity or reasoning.

Historians thus had no role at all in determining either the size, clothing or demeanour of the Nadaprabhu (Nadaprabhu Kempegowda). According to the former Bangalore Mayor, (the late) G. Narayana, the first statue of Kempegowda was installed in front of the Bangalore Corporation in 1964 after a five-year period when corporators argued about what he might have looked like. Had historians played their role, they might have offered the two extant versions of a pious Kempegowda at the Someswara Temple at Halasuru and the Gangadhareshwara temple at Shivagange. Whether in the bas relief at Halasuru or the statue at Shivagange, he is shown in a prayerful attitude, both hands folded, and with his sword safely sheathed. But the person who has now been posthumously consecrated as the *yuga purush* of the entire region – standing on mud procured from different parts of the State – requires a warrior-like stance, sword drawn.

> The professional historian today hesitates to cross the dangerous minefield that the past has become

But his elaborate embroidered tunic, 'churidars', turban, *sarpesh*, and upturned footwear in the gigantic statue is cause for pause. In the two known representations, he is bare-chested, barefoot, and with the creases of his *panche* clearly shown. Even more interesting is his headgear, which historians have identified as the *Kullayi* (also *kapayi* in Kannada) 'tall conical cap of brocaded fabric' – usually worn with the Kabayi (long white tunic). These were garments borrowed by the Vijayanagar kings from their Islamic neighbours. Such cultural borrowings – forms of dress, address, judicature, or architecture – as many medieval historians have shown, were common in the period that has stubbornly been identified as a time of unalloyed Hindu-Muslim antagonism.

By the 17th century, Maratha styles of dress also became popular, themselves fusing Islamicate court traditions, as in the successor States of Vijayanagar at Ikkeri, Madurai and Thanjavur. Kempegowda's clothing in fact conforms more to those of the 18th century ruler Tipu Sultan, whose name has become anathema to large sections of the Kannada public. Devanahalli, where the airport is located, is Tipu's birthplace – Kempegowda's birthplace was Yelahanka, some distance away.

An intra-party war

'Islamicate' or 'Persianate' – rather than 'Islamic' – is the historian's preferred term, to distinguish the extensive politico-cultural influences from close links to religion. Such nuances are of course lost on the political stalwarts who 'joyfully march to (Hindutva) music in rank and file.' A full-fledged battle has recently broken out in Mysuru over the design of a new bus shelter, which first sported three domes. Mysuru MP Prathap Simha red-flagged the 'gumbaz-like' structure as more appropriate to Pakistan than Bharat, and demanded it be demolished and reconstructed. The MLA S.A. Ramdas explained that his effort was to pay a tribute to the domes of the Mysore Palace, and the style favoured in early 20th century palace construction. In this intra-Bharatiya Janata Party war, Prathap Simha's roar about the bus stop resembling a masjid made the contractor scramble to install *kalashas* on the structure overnight; when even that did not diminish the rage of the MP, it was painted orange. It is as hopeless to point out that the Kodekal and Tintinni temples (Yadgir district) sport minarets and domes as it is to point out the difference between monarchies and democracies to University Grants Commission chairmen. Rightly had Albert Einstein said of the 'joyful marchers' that they were mistakenly given a large brain when a spinal cord would have sufficed.

The rage against Tipu Sultan meanwhile gathers force on several fronts; the head of the State repertory theatre, Rangayana, has written a play (performed with 250-strong police protection) called *Tipu Nija Kanasugalu* (Tipu's Real Dreams) which portrays him as a tyrant. (Historian Michael Sorocoe has shown that this cultivated image was crucial to the establishment of a British imperial order from the late 18th century.) We have come a long way from Hulimane Sitarama Sastry's portrayal of Tipu Sultan in the play he wrote and performed in the late 1940s and 1950s, ringing out the words 'Veera! Dhira! Shura!' and celebrating the Mysuru *huli* (tiger) as the first anti-colonial warrior.

A defiance of history

Today, the defiance of history is also in a high decibel video in which we are told that two Vokkaligas, Uri Gowda and Nanje Gowda, wounded and killed Tipu Sultan in 1799. If the two ' bravehearts' were soldiers of the East India Company army, are they to be treated as heroes, or as 'anti-nationals' who helped the British gain control of the one region in India that stoutly resisted their forces?

The professional historian today hesitates to cross the dangerous minefield that the past has become. Like the litter we encounter in our daily lives, we must become inured to far too much history lying around for use as missiles. Given this uncertain future, the privileged could either choose a faraway country to research – say Ireland, witty and hospitable – or retreat to a safe redoubt, such as the British Library. (A good part of Tipu's library is there, safer in the hands of his former enemies –thereby escaping pillage or arson in the new India.) The less fortunate could join imaginative tourist guides at well-known historical sites, and claim that 'in the old days' humans were about 35 feet tall (as a persuasive guide at Lepakshi had it, while explaining why a single enigmatic footstep of Sita was more than six foot long). At least we will not be harming any people or structures.

Xi's Congress rhetoric powers the PLA's march ahead

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The developments in the wake of the 20th Party Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China's rise, its domestic debates and agenda merit a closer examination of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) role as a geopolitical actor.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, who made history with his unprecedented third term in office at the Party Congress in October, told the Chinese elite at the quinquennial gathering that it was important to further expedite military modernisation to make it a world-class force. He underscored that the PLA should be able to stage military operations quickly and have the "ability to win local wars". On the issue of Taiwan's reunification, Mr. Xi asserted that while China would make efforts to bring back the territory peacefully, it could deploy military means to achieve its aims. Furthermore, Mr. Xi proclaimed that he would ensure "total reunification of China". More recently, he told United States President Joe Biden (during their first in-person meeting at the sidelines of the G20 leaders' summit in Indonesia) that Taiwan was the core of China's core interests. Having cranked up the rhetoric, Mr. Xi will have to deliver on Taiwan. In this endeavour, the PLA will be an important component.

Strategic shift

This year, Mr. Xi completes a decade at the helm of the Central Military Commission (CMC), a body that oversees the CPC's vast military. In different phases, he has brought about changes to the CMC's structure and troop units and reconstituted command theatres. Its naval fleet is larger than America's, and has improved the capabilities of its navy personnel through participation in anti-piracy missions. China made forays into building capacities so as to fight on new battlefronts such as space and cyberspace with the constitution of the Strategic Support Force. The PLA Rocket Force, which was upgraded to a full military service branch in 2016, is in charge of China's land-based nuclear and conventional missile forces. There has been a change in approach to military education and hiring talent with the PLA, increasingly seeking out university students with a background in "skills needed to supplement war effort" namely engineering, communications, Internet, and drone operations. Reports also emerged that China was engaging air force pilots of western nations to train its personnel by offering them huge sums of money so as to understand how foreign defence services operate and fine-tune Chinese air force capabilities. The tactics learnt through such means could come in handy in case of an invasion of Taiwan.

> China's military overhaul is also connected to its ambition to elbow out the United States as a global power

According to defence experts, Mr. Xi's reforms, in which the land-based army has been pruned in favour of improving aerial, naval and strategic service branches, constitute the largest overhaul of the PLA since the 1990s in a bid to mould the military into a modern force. The motivation for this military transformation may have something to do with Mr. Xi's background. Around the time of the Sino-Vietnamese war, Mr. Xi served as then Defence Minister Geng Biao's secretary in the CMC, allowing him to witness at close quarters the PLA's shortcomings and deficiencies.

Ambitions post Party Congress

China's military overhaul is also connected to its ambition to elbow out the U.S. as a global power. Thus, attaining dominance in the air, space and cyber domains, allows China to project power in the region and protect its interests overseas. In this mission, it is borrowing from the western template. The ascendance of the U.S. as a world power in the 1940s and the geopolitics of West Asia where America's rival, the Soviet Union, began to take interest led to an increased U.S. army presence in hydrocarbon-rich Saudi Arabia. China is similarly broadening its ties to archipelago nations in the southern Pacific Ocean such as the Solomon Islands for geopolitical reasons. A Europe thrown into turmoil due to the war in Ukraine has meant that China sees it prudent to expand into the Solomon Islands for its Belt and Road Initiative and constructing special economic zones. An economic investment fetching good returns is incumbent on political stability, in addition to other variables. This seems to be the reasoning for the security pact recently inked between China and the Solomon Islands. Picture this – on the pretext of protecting Chinese projects and personnel stationed on the islands, China's police-military personnel get a toehold on the islands. China then makes inroads into the islands' security establishment by indoctrinating law-enforcement officials through training programmes conducted on the mainland, and socialises its political elite through bribery and corruption before taking over. This is not a dystopian fantasy, but a reality that is unfolding right now.

Implications for India

As China's military reforms have rolled out, there has been a commensurate increase in its aggression and expansion as evidenced in phases such as the declaration of an Air Defence Identification Zone over the East China Sea, reclamation of islands in the South China Sea, followed by construction of military infrastructure there. Even as China seeks to dial down tensions along the border and create an impression of bonhomie, it is building infrastructure along the Indian border. New Delhi must not get lulled into complacency by these optics or Chinese sophistry. The first stop in China's journey to become a global power is becoming a regional hegemon in Asia. This will mean that it will have to deal with India soon or later.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Birth certificate mandatory

The proposed amendment to make birth certificates mandatory smacks of thoughtlessness (Page 1, November 27). Despite proclaimed Indian progress in various spheres of public life, the idea sounds odd since there are countless children and adults, especially in the lower rungs of society, who do not have birth certificates for one reason or the other. The retrospective feature is unimpressive. It is practically impossible to obtain a birth certificate after a substantial passage of time. If the amendment is cleared, it may make life difficult, if not miserable, for many Indians. There are many other areas where the Centre can address public grievances. Newer issues need not be introduced, especially those which do not call for the Centre's attention and interference.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

This seems an unnecessary proposal. When the registration of births and deaths is already compulsory, one cannot comprehend the benefits arising out of this step. Furthermore, there are scores of people who do not possess the birth certificate or death certificate of their family members. This is an issue that needs to be debated and addressed in Parliament's winter session.

Aanya Singhal,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

The decision makes sense in that the certificate proves a citizen's identity. However, as many (NRIs, for example) would not have a valid birth certificate for various reasons, the Government must make the decision prospective.

Dr. George Jacob E.,
Kochi, Kerala

It may be worthwhile issuing a National Citizenship Book, or an NCB, with the person's citizenship number, date of birth and his/her photo (once the baby is born), which can be renewed once in five years upto the age of 20 years, and then once in 10 years, as in many other documents. The NCB may be used for all the domestic needs of the individual. For external needs, outside the country, a passport may be issued based on the NCB.

A. Jainulabdeen,
Chennai

Vikram Gokhale

Veteran actor Vikram Gokhale was a versatile actor who could cross any boundary. He was a legend as far as Indian theatre was concerned and will be remembered for his exceptional acting. He, along with another star Tabassum, will be missed..

C.K. Jayanthi Subramaniam,
Mumbai

Corrections & Clarifications

This is in reference to the story titled "Himalayan yak gets food animal tag; milk and meat to be used" (Some editions, November 27, 2022). There had been an inadvertent mistake in understanding the development of food animal tag. After recommendation from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the scientific panel of FSSAI accepted yak as a food animal. After this, it will be finally notified in the gazette after approval of competent authority.

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It's time to discuss depopulation

Rukmini S.

is an independent data journalist based in Chennai. Ramakrishnan Srinivasan contributed to the data analysis

Two weeks ago, when the world population touched eight billion, several headlines focused on how India was the largest contributor to the last billion and is set to surpass China as the world's most populous nation by 2023. China's population has begun to decline, while India's population is expected to grow for another 40 years, they said. But missing in this conversation is the real threat of depopulation that parts of India too face, and the country's complete lack of preparedness to deal with it.

By current United Nations estimates, India's population will begin to decline only in 2063, by which time it will be just shy of 1.7 billion. The world's population is expected to grow until 2086. Given that China's population has begun to decline, these estimates about India have led to alarmist calls for restrictions on family sizes. Such remarks have increasingly assumed an anti-Muslim tone.

On the other hand, demographers, policy experts and politicians in countries such as Japan, South Korea and Europe, which are experiencing falling fertility and nearing the inflection point of population declines, are beginning to talk about what the future holds and whether reversal is possible. However, the global conversation around depopulation is missing some key elements. Without talking about equitable sharing of housework; access to subsidised childcare that allows women to have families as well as a career; and lowered barriers to immigration to enable entry to working-age people from countries which aren't yet in population decline, the narrative can sometimes be tinged with anti-feminism and ethnic superiority. And that is precisely why India needs to step into and have this conversation.

Fertility in India

It is now well-established that fertility in India is falling along expected lines as a direct result of rising incomes and greater female access to health and education. India's total fertility rate is now below the replacement rate of fertility. However, what needs more urgent policy intervention is the fact that parts of India have not only achieved replacement fertility, but have been below the replacement rate for so long that they are at the cusp of real declines in population. Kerala, which achieved replacement fertility in 1998, and Tamil Nadu, which achieved this in 2000, are examples. Moreover, even in States with relatively high fertility, many cities have been at the replacement rate or below the replacement rate for over a decade, if not more; the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) estimated India's urban fertility rate in 2019-21 to be 1.6, which places it next to the U.K.

Yet, India, especially States and cities with below-replacement fertility, is not having the urgent conversation that the U.K. is having about what a future with an ageing population and a declining workforce is going to look like. In the next four years, both Tamil Nadu and Kerala will see the first absolute declines in their working-age populations in their histories. With falling mortality (barring the pandemic), the total population of these States will continue to grow for the next few decades, which means that fewer working-age people must support more elderly people than ever before. Among the female elderly in particular, economic dependence is a serious concern.

Against this backdrop, both States will also need to re-examine the continued sustainability of low in-migration. In 2011, the median Tamilian was 10 years older than the median Bihari. By 2036, they will be separated by over 12 years and the median Tamilian will be over 40 years old; the working-age population of the future will skew northwards. Yet, even though political and popular rhetoric in Tamil Nadu and Kerala often makes it appear as if these States are facing a surge of migrants from the poorer, more populous northern States, the fact is that both States had negative net migration rates, which means they sent out more migrants than they received, as of 2011, the most recent year for which this data are available. This will make access to working-age persons notably different from the situation in other States with low fertility. These include Delhi and Karnataka which are both net recipients of migrants, and will not confront population decline in the near future (though the future is uncertain given strident nativist political rhetoric across India).

> Rates of fertility are falling fast enough in parts of India that population declines are on the horizon

Three challenges

A depopulating future poses at least three unique challenges to India. First, a skewed sex ratio remains a danger. As the latest round of the NFHS showed, families with at least one son are less likely to want more children than families with just one daughter. Second, the stark differences between northern and southern States in terms of basic literacy as well as enrolment in higher education, including in technical fields, will mean that workers from the southern States are not automatically replaceable. Third, the sharp anti-Muslim tone in the conversation has remained even though fertility between Hindus and Muslims is converging.

Conversations around fertility reductions in the southern States are often framed around the price that these States are having to pay in relation to others in terms of the share of federal tax receipts or political representation. But there is also the question of the price their own citizens will have to bear in terms of economic productivity and welfare sustainability. With decades of focus on lowering fertility, the conversation in India is stuck in a rut. It is for the southern States to break away from this outmoded, data-free rhetoric and join the global conversation on depopulation.

A 'royal' challenge for BJP in Tripura

TIPRA Motha has become powerful in both tribal and general constituencies

STATE OF PLAY

Rahul Karmakar
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On November 12, Tripura's newest tribe-based political party organised a rally in the heart of Agartala. The mass gathering was held a few hundred metres from the party's historic headquarters, a part of the Ujjayanta Palace that serves as the residence of its chief, Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman. The turnout for the event seemingly silenced critics who had dismissed the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA Motha) as a party restricted to the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) comprising 20 of the State's 60 Assembly constituencies. It also made the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wary of the damage the TIPRA Motha could inflict in some of the 40 "non-tribal" seats in the event of a multi-cornered contest.

Barely two years after its birth, the TIPRA Motha has become the biggest challenger to the BJP not only in the TTAADC, which covers 68% of Tripura's geographical area, but also in the general constituencies which are beyond its "comfort zone". One reason for this is the keenness of both the CPI(M), which ruled Tripura for 25 years until 2018, and the Congress to forge a pre-poll alliance with the TIPRA Motha. Although Mr. Deb Barman has ruled out such a pact, the Congress conveyed that a tacit understanding had been reached, when its workers offered water and logistical support to TIPRA Motha's supporters for the November 12 rally. The second is Mr. Deb Barman's bid to reach out to the

non-tribal people in order to shatter the perception that his party has been polarising a majority of the 19 tribal communities against the non-tribal Bengalis, many of whom reside in the TTAADC areas. He has been working on a "non-tribal front" of his party and has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court for the reinstatement of 10,323 teachers, most of whom are non-tribal. The issue of the teachers was among those that helped the BJP dislodge the Left Front government in 2018 along with its tribe-based ally, the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT).

The Left Front, comprising the CPI(M) and CPI, had won 19 of the 20 TTAADC Assembly seats in 2013 and the Congress, one. The CPI(M)'s tribal front, the Tripura Rajya Upajati Ganamukti Parishad, helped the Left Front wield clout in the TTAADC. But in 2018, the BJP and IPFT wrested 18 seats leaving only two for the CPI (M). Since 2019, when Mr. Deb Barman quit the Congress and began mobilising support for his nebulous theory of a Greater Tipraland - a homeland encompassing tribal areas of Tripura and beyond, even Bangladesh, there has been a steady erosion of support for the CPI(M), the IPFT and the BJP in the TTAADC. His credo that year in the tribal Kokborok language was: "*Puila jaati, ulo party* (Race first, party later)". Over the last few months, four tribal MLAs of the IPFT and the BJP have quit and joined the TIPRA Motha.

The TIPRA Motha's ascent started with the TTAADC elections in April 2021. The party won 18 of the 28 seats, while the BJP bagged nine. One seat went to an independent. The CPI(M) was wiped out.

While critics say Assembly elections are a different ball game from tribal council elections, Mr. Deb Barman believes people are embracing his party because of its "non-conventional brand of politics" where the "constitutional rehabilitation of the indigenous populace" is more important than taking a top post. He showed he meant business by not becoming the TTAADC chief after winning the Takarjala-Jampuijala seat. He insists he is not keen on becoming the Chief Minister if his party commands the numbers.

The local media have been speculating about Mr. Deb Barman's possible role as a king-maker if the non-BJP parties, specifically the CPI(M), form an alliance. There are also speculations about the TIPRA Motha's "understanding" with the BJP, which is believed to have redeemed itself after replacing the often-faltering Biplab Kumar Deb with Manik Saha as the Chief Minister. But frequent hostilities between the two parties point to the contrary.

The apparent failure of the CPI(M) and the Congress to instil confidence in the voters may stand the BJP in good stead across the 40 seats dominated by the non-tribal people. But even if the BJP aims to equal its 2018 score of 26 seats, it will have to ensure the numbers from the TTAADC area. This is where the TIPRA Motha becomes a bigger factor than either the CPI (M) or Congress.

Lopsidedness is the exception and not the rule

The increasing number of 'upsets' by Asian and African teams in 2022 show that expanding participation in the World Cups is the right decision

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Rebecca Rose Varghese

With two Asian teams (Saudi Arabia and Japan) taming two giants of football (Argentina and Germany, respectively), the 2022 FIFA World Cup's group stages were off to an unexpected start. And with Iran defeating the Wales, three Asian teams have registered victories this World Cup.

The first two wins were surprising as the Elo rating difference between Saudi Arabia and Argentina was 508 points and that between Japan and Germany was 176 points. Elo ratings are used to measure a team's relative strength. The Elo system assigns a rating to each nation using the results of previous international games. The Wales-Iran game was a close affair as the Elo rating difference between the teams was just seven points.

The number of Asian teams entering and registering victories in the group stage (round 1) of the tournament has been steadily increasing over the years. Entering the group stages is not difficult as each continent has a fixed number of qualification berths. But moving on to successive stages is a different ball game altogether. **Table 1A** shows the number of teams from each continent that participated in the group stage. **Table 1B** shows the number of victories registered by those teams in that stage. For instance, five teams from Asia are participating in 2022. Three victories have been recorded by them (till the Morocco-Belgium game on Sunday).

In 2018, four Asian teams recorded wins in the group stage: Iran against Morocco; Japan against Colombia; Saudi Arabia against Egypt; and South Korea against Germany. Japan's win was the third biggest upset of the edition (its Elo difference with Colombia was 244 points) and South Korea's win was the fifth biggest upset across all editions (Elo difference of 364 points). In 2002, South Korea performed even better by managing to enter the semi-finals. That year, Turkey, another Asian nation, also reached the semi-finals as shown in **Table 3A**. Table 3A shows the number of semi-finalists from each continent.

African teams too have recorded consistent wins in recent years. The Sunday game in which Morocco defeated Belgium is a case in point. With an Elo difference of 241 points, this is the second biggest upset of this World Cup. Cameroon in 1990, Senegal in 2002 and Ghana in 2010 managed to enter the quarter-finals, though none of them won. North American nations Costa Rica and the U.S. entered the quarter-finals in 2014 and 2002, respectively. The 2002 edition was most diverse, with one country each from Africa, South America and North America, two from Asia, and three from Europe moving to knock-out rounds as shown in **Table 2**. Table 2 shows the number of quarter-finalists from each continent.

So, the increasingly regular 'upset' wins along with occasional breakthroughs to the knock-out stages by teams from Asia, Africa and North America show that the move to increase the number of participating teams from 32 to 48 in the 2026 edition is a step in the right direction.

But the Europeans and the South Americans continue to dominate the last two stages of the tournament. Apart from the 2002 World Cup, and the inaugural edition, no other non-European and non-South American team has reached the semi-finals stage.

Moreover, as shown in **Table 3B**, only European and South American teams have ever won the semi-finals. Table 3B shows teams winning in the semi-final stage. Europeans have dominated the past four editions as shown in **Table 4.** In three of the editions, both the finalists were European.

World Cup score card

The data are sourced from fifa.com and eloratings.net. The tables show the number of participating nations and victories registered from each continent. The years are shortened: 30 corresponds to 1930; 02 = 2002, and so on

Table 1A: The table shows the number of teams from each continent that participated in the group stage **in a year**

Years ⟶	30	34	38	50	54	58	62	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	94	98	02	06	10	14	18	22
Africa		1							1	1	1	2	2	2	3	5	5	5	6	5	5	5
Asia					2	1	1	2	2		1	2	3	3	2	4	5	4	3	3	5	5
Europe	4	12	12	6	11	11	9	9	8	9	10	14	13	13	13	15	14	14	13	13	13	13
N. America	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	4	3	4
Oceania										1		1						1	2	1	1	1
S. America	7	2	1	5	2	3	5	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	6	5	4

Table 1B: The table shows the number of victories registered by teams from each continent in the group stage **in a year**

Africa											1	2	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
Asia					1			1							2	1	5	1	3		4	3
Europe	4	8	5	10	12	13	12	14	11	22	17	24	16	18	17	19	16	23	15	18	22	10
N. America	2		1	1			1		2				2	2	2	2	4	1	2	5	2	1
Oceania																		1	1			1
S. America	9		1	8	3	4	6	4	6	4	9	6	6	6	5	7	6	8	10	13	8	2

Table 2: The table **shows the number of teams to reach the quarter-finals stage** from each continent in a year

Years ⟶	30	34	38	50	54	58	62	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	94	98	02	06	10	14	18
Africa														1			1		1		
Asia								1									2				
Europe		8	6		6	7	6	5	4				5	6	7	6	3	6	3	4	6
N. America			1						1				1				1			1	
S. America			1		2	1	2	2	3				2	1	1	2	1	2	4	3	2

Table 3A: The table shows the number of teams to enter the **semi-finals stage** from each continent in a year

Years ⟶	30	34	38	50	54	58	62	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	94	98	02	06	10	14	18
N. America	1																				
Asia																	2				
Europe	1	4	3		3	3	2	4	2			4	3	3	3	3	1	4	3	2	4
S. America	2		1		1	1	2		2				1	1	1	1	1		1	2	

Table 3B: The table shows the number of victories registered by teams in the **semi-finals stage** from each continent in a year

Europe		2	2		2	1	1	2	1			2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2
S. America	2					1	1		1				1	1	1	1	1			1	

Table 4: The table shows the number of wins by teams in the **final stage** from each continent in a year

Years ⟶	30	34	38	50	54	58	62	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	94	98	02	06	10	14	18
Europe		1	1		1			1		1		1		1		1		1	1	1	1
S. America	1			1		1	1		1		1		1		1		1				

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 28, 1972

Tight pants, mini-skirts: Govt. not to interfere

New Delhi, Nov. 27: The Government to-day ruled out any interference with the wearing of "tight pants" and "mini-skirts" by the present day youth.

"The foundation of Indian culture is strong enough to withstand the minor changes in fashion," the Deputy Education Minister, Mr. D.P. Yadav, told the Lok Sabha in a written answer.

He was replying to a question of Mr. Dhan Shah Pradhan whether tight pants and mini-skirts were in vogue in educational institutions, and whether the Government would take appropriate action to promote Indian culture.

It was for the educational institutions to prescribe dress regulations if they so desired, the Deputy Minister said. The Government was aware that the younger generation prefer red tight pants although it was not sure whether mini-skirts were generally in vogue.

Mr. Yadav added that dress worn by the youth to-day all over the world, was undergoing fast changes, and the Indian youth was also influenced by new ideas. Many fashions, originating in India, had also become popular in other parts of the world – UNI.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 28, 1922

Mr. Rakovsky's interview with "Le Matin"

Lausanne, Nov. 27: M. Rakovsky has arrived.

Paris, Nov. 27: Mr. Rakovsky in the course of an interview with the Lausanne representative of "Le Matin" yesterday stated that it was Russia's intention to take part in discussions, besides those which have to do with the Straits for which she had been specially invited to attend. As regards the Straits Russia who in favour of unhindered passage for all vessels between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, but she considered that warships must not enter the Black Sea. Russia would prefer that the Straits should be controlled by the bordering States rather than by the British fleet and suggested that real freedom of the Straits would be best ensured by putting them into the hands of the Turks.

From Page One

China protests spread to dozens of campuses

Protests this weekend spread to over 50 Chinese college campuses, according to a list shared online and dozens of protest videos shared on social media. In the elite Tsinghua University in the heart of the Chinese capital, Mr. Xi's alma mater, students gathered on Sunday, chanting: "We need democracy, rule of law, and freedom of expression!"

"We haven't seen scenes like this since 1989," a veteran Chinese journalist told *The Hindu*, referring to the Tiananmen Square protests.

This weekend, thousands of students gathered across the country, from Sichuan University in the West to Nanjing Communications University in the east. While local protests against issues ranging from land grabs to environmental pollution are not uncommon in China, what is now unprecedented is a national-level protest on the same issue, and carried out in direct opposition to a Central government policy. Only last month, Mr. Xi defended the zero-COVID policy at the Party Congress that marked the start of his third term.

If the scenes from around campuses were certainly unprecedented, less clear is the road ahead. On Sunday, the Communist Party's official newspaper *People's Daily* declared that the government would continue to firmly adhere to the zero-COVID policy, even as anger grows at the economic and social costs, and questions mount as to how the rest of the world has left China behind in emerging from the pandemic.

Chinese health experts have told State media that the country could not afford to open up, given the vast elderly population, and the stress on its medical system that could face a collapse. China could face millions of deaths, with only 40% of the above-80 population having completed three doses of Chinese vaccines, needed to prevent hospitalisation and death. There has not been any recent attempt, however, to revive the booster campaign. That has taken a backseat, with healthcare resources devoted to lockdowns and testing instead.

Yet at the same time, millions of Chinese have struggled under the continuing weight of the zero-COVID regime. Continuing lockdowns have decimated livelihoods and the economy. University students have been particularly badly affected, spending months either in online learning or confined to their dormitories, and facing on graduation arguably the worst job prospects in China's reform era.

Egypt President to be chief guest

Egypt, along with Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore and Spain, is among the guest countries invited to attend next year's G-20 summit that will be conducted under India's presidency. "This is the first time that the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt will be the Chief Guest at our Republic Day," the MEA said in its announcement. The late Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had visited India in 2008 when the UPA Government had awarded him the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding.

Punjab govt. staff edgy over old pension scheme's restoration

Employee unions have threatened to stage protests unless a proper notification is issued, State government is also facing the challenge of getting back the accumulated government's share of ₹17,000 crore from the Central Pension Authority

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

With the Punjab government yet to notify the detailed scheme and the standard operating procedures surrounding the restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS), the anxiousness among the State employees is only growing even as experts feel that going back to the OPS will have financial implications in the long run.

Punjab government employees are up in arms against the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and have threatened to resort to an agitation if a "proper" notification is not issued right away.

The employees are demanding an immediate amendment to the Civil Service Rules and issue of written details surrounding the pension policy, which has not been done in the notification.

On November 18, the Punjab government issued a notification regarding the restoration of the OPS, in which it was stated that all the government employees who were at present being covered under the Defined Contributory Pension Scheme, also referred to as the National Pension System (NPS), would be given the benefits of the OPS. However, as the notification pointed out that the detailed scheme and the standard operating procedures would be informed by the State government in due course of time, it raised anxiety among the employees.

The Punjab government, led by CM Bhagwant Mann, issued a notification regarding the restoration of the OPS on November 18.

Protest on Nov. 30

Several employees under the banner of 'Sanjha Mulazam Manch', a joint platform of employees, which includes the employees related to various directorate unions, teacher unions, the Punjab State ministerial service union, the Punjab civil secretariat staff association, had earlier this week staged their protest in Chandigarh, and now plan to stage another protest on November 30.

"We will stage protest demonstration against the State government on November 30, and if the notification in accordance with the rules is not issued, we will intensify our agitation. The government should have clearly mentioned the detailed scheme and the Standard Operating Procedures in the notification itself. The notification has been issued without amending the Civil Service Rules (CSR) and without mentioning the detailed pension policy," Sukhchain Singh Khaira, convener of the Joint Front, told *The Hindu*. The OPS was abolished by the National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre in December 2003 and the NPS came into force on April 1, 2004. Under the OPS, the entire pension amount was given by the government whereas the NPS is a participatory scheme where employees contribute to the pension corpus from their salaries, with matching contributions from the government, and is market-linked.

'Right decision'

As the concern surrounding the OPS among employees continues, Ranjit Singh Ghuman, Professor of Eminence (Economics) at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, has pointed out that while resorting to the OPS was a right and appreciative decision as it was a formidable social and financial security to the retired persons in their old age, the State government would have to face the challenge of getting back the accumulated government's share of around ₹17,000 crore from the Central Pension Authority.

"The challenge is how to get back the accumulated government's share which is around ₹17,000 crore from the Central Pension Authority (PFRDA) and what about employees' share (10%) which is also lying with the Authority. The Authority might have invested that amount in various income-generating schemes, which might be having a long gestation period. The government seems to be linking the implementation of the OPS with the above challenges and therefore the solution may take longer time than expected," he said.

Asserting that the OPS would certainly have financial implications for the State in the long run when the entrants of the year 2004 retire sometime around 2030, Mr. Ghuman said, "The crude estimates indicate that there will be an additional financial burden annually between ₹1,000-₹1,500 crore from 2030 onwards, but it is nothing for the State government in view of the benefits of the OPS. Additionally, the government will stop contributing its 14% share towards the pension fund, which will be around ₹550-₹600 crore annually".

'Old pension scheme will burden future taxpayers'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery on Sunday expressed concern over the revival of the old pension scheme (OPS) by some States, saying it would burden future taxpayers at a time when India needed to focus on fiscal prudence and promote sustained growth.

In an interview to *PTI*, Mr. Bery also underlined the need for enhancing the capital expenditure and creating a space for the private sector through fiscal consolidation.

The OPS, under which the entire pension amount was given by the government, was discontinued by the NDA government in 2003 with effect from April 1, 2004.

Under the National Pension System (NPS), the employees contribute 10% of the basic salary towards their pension while the State government contributes 14% of the same.

"I think political parties have to exercise discipline, since we are all working for a common cause of growth of the Indian economy, and for India to become a developed economy, you know the long-term (objectives) needs to be balanced against the short-term (objectives)," Mr. Bery said.

On the draw

India, Australia wargames to begin today

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A bilateral training exercise between India and Australian armies will kick-start in Rajasthan from Monday, the Defence Ministry said.

'Austra Hind 22' is scheduled to take place at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges from November 28 to December 11.

It will be a yearly event conducted alternatively in India and Australia.

INBRIEF

BJP should not act like Pak. raiders of 1947: Mehbooba

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday said the BJP should restrain from behaving like raiders in Kashmir as the Valley residents successfully evicted raiders from Pakistan in 1947. She pledged to force the Centre to restore J&K's special status."A Muslim-majority State in 1947, Kashmir saw no bloodshed. J&K decided to accede to Gandhi's India that talked about communal harmony and not today's India. However, the BJP has played with the dignity and identity of people of J&K. This will not work. We will not give up," she said. Asking people to remain "steadfast in their struggle", Ms. Mufti said J&K had acceded to India in 1947 and had a relation to the Constitution and love that "the BJP completely destroyed".

Mahatma Gandhi's bust to be inaugurated at UNHQ

A bust of Mahatma Gandhi will be inaugurated as a gift from India to the United Nations during India's presidency of the Security Council next month. It will be installed at the headquarters in New York. The bust, made by renowned Indian sculptor and Padma Shri awardee Ram Sutar, who also designed the Statue of Unity in Gujarat, will be inaugurated on December 14 during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to the UN. Another gift from India which is on display at the UN Headquarters is an 11th century black-stone statue of 'Surya', the Sun God, dating from the late Pala period, was donated on July 26, 1982, by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. PTI

Shashi Tharoor's political ambitions can put the Congress on test

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor's recent hectic five-day Malabar tour that has got the party's Kerala leadership hot under the collar is intricately connected to the party's Delhi intrigues and the events that followed his unsuccessful run in the Congress presidential election.

In a deeply one-sided election, with the party's machinery standing firmly behind the present president, Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr. Tharoor got more than 11% of the votes, making him a claimant to the party's high table. But Mr. Tharoor's supporters feel that the Congress has steadfastly refused to recognise his claim.

They cite two instances. First, he was denied a berth in the steering committee formed to replace the Congress Working Committee (CWC). The party claimed that the decision was dictated by the party's constitution, which appoints the existing CWC as the steering committee till a new body is elected, in order to ensure a seamless transition of power. Even if one buys this argument, his supporters say, the party has no cogent explanation for why Mr. Tharoor was kept out of the star campaigners list for the Assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat.

The presidential election proved to Mr. Tharoor and to the party that he has a constituency beyond the Congress – especially among middle class centrist voters, for whom the Congress might not always be the natural electoral choice. A Kerala MP succinctly encapsulates the problem. "Mr. Tharoor was never identified as a grassroots leader, but the presidential election has changed that perception. Clearly, he has a wider acceptance among the Indian electorate. The party, therefore, has to figure out a niche to fit him, otherwise like a loose peg he will keep rattling the party," the MP said.

New options

While fighting for his space within the Congress, Mr. Tharoor has also spoken about having "options" – options that he can explore when the need arises. But his public engagements and pronouncements so far indicate that the BJP is not on this list.

Shashi Tharoor

The Kerala leadership, meanwhile, is left lamenting Delhi's inability to contain Mr. Tharoor. Having tip-toed around the fractious party unit in Kerala for the last decade, no one saw him as a stakeholder in the power structure in the State, despite winning three straight elections. This surprise especially turned into a shock when Muslim League chief Panakkad Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal laid out the red carpet for him, while the influential Nair Service Society also warmed to him. And importantly, it generated a lot of media interest and a lot of social media traffic. A visibly irked Leader of the Opposition in the State V.D. Satheesan warned against "parallel political activity". He went on to add, without much explanation, that "Congress leaders in Kerala with grassroots support were not inflated balloons to burst".

Potential CM face?

The response to Mr. Tharoor's Malabar campaign from both within and outside the party has raised an obvious question: will Mr. Tharoor try to position himself ahead of the next Assembly election in the State as a chief ministerial face? The election is still four years away, giving Mr. Tharoor ample time to ramp up his campaign. Sources close to Mr. Tharoor say that he is not willing to sit idle till the Congress makes up its mind to offer him space.

For now, the Central leadership is not ready to step in between Mr. Tharoor and the State leadership. The party's State incharge, Tariq Anwar, claimed that "all is settled". "Mr. Tharoor has the freedom to go and speak anywhere. All we ask of him is to adhere to party hierarchy and line," he told *The Hindu*.

Congress views terrorism from prism of vote bank, says PM

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

After playing the 'son of the soil' card and slamming Congress leaders for "calling names", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday targeted the Opposition party again over terrorism and said it "goes soft on terrorism to save its vote bank".

Campaigning in his home State of Gujarat, ahead of voting for the Assembly election, Mr. Modi accused the Congress of targeting him during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government instead of targeting terrorists who had "struck at will" when the party was in power at the Centre.

He also recalled the 26/11 Mumbai terror strike and Batla House encounter in which terrorists were gunned down by the Delhi Police, and said that it was important to "save Gujarat and the country from Congress and like-minded parties which go soft on terrorists to protect their vote bank".

He claimed that "several Congress leaders cried" when terrorists were killed in the Batla House police encounter in the national capital.

PM Narendra Modi taking part in a rally in Kheda district on Sunday. PTI

"Congress views terrorism from the prism of vote bank. Not only Congress but also many like-minded parties have come up now who view terrorism as a short cut to achieve success and this small party's hunger for power is even bigger," he said, apparently referring to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), a new entrant in the State's politics.

The Prime Minister claimed that terrorism had been at its peak when the Congress was in power at the Centre and said that the party had not been tough on terrorists.

APPEAL

Kavya is 6 years suffering from Fanconi Anemia. Her family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of **Rs.20,00,000/-** to undergo Bone Marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. She needs your blessings and support. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

In Mehsana, Nitin Patel wields clout even if he is not contesting

Nistula Hebbar
MEHSANA

At Dhandhusan village in the Mehsana Assembly constituency, a campaign meeting has the BJP candidate, Mukesh Patel, in full flow about why people should vote for him. One of the chief reasons cited is that he has been handpicked by the outgoing MLA, Nitin Patel, as his replacement.

"Nitin *bhai* decided that he will not fight these polls, and it is he himself who suggested that I contest this time," he says to applause in the meeting. This assertion attests to the long shadow cast by former Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel on the contest in Mehsana, a seat he had held since 2012.

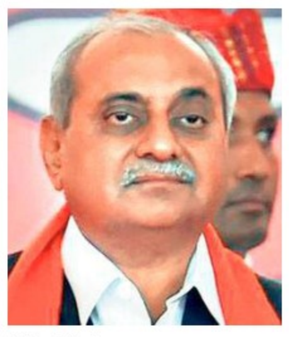
Mr. Nitin's withdrawal from the contest, along with former Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, basically signalled that the BJP in the State wanted to turn the page on the past few years and usher in a new generation of leadership. In all such cases, however, this is easier said than done on the ground. Therefore, when it came to selecting a candidate for Mehsana, Mr. Nitin's nominee, Mr. Mukesh, was chosen.

All election campaign material from the BJP in the seat has Mr. Nitin and Mr. Mukesh appearing side by side, making the endorsement clear.

There has been resentment in certain circles that instead of giving a fresh start to district politics, this move only replaced Mr. Nitin with his nominee. Others caution that the BJP had no alternative.

"Nitin *bhai* spoke for the party though the Patidar Samaj in 2017 was against the BJP. He went against his own community people, yet he won. In such a situation, if he is being asked not to contest, one has to heed him on choice of candidate," said a party worker on the sidelines of the meeting in Dhandhusan.

"BJP bought some insurance against any internal sabotage, basically," he adds. There is also talk that Mr. Nitin may be fielded in the 2024 Lok Sabha election from the State, serving


Nitin Patel

the twin objectives of mollifying him and keeping him out of State politics.

Mr. Nitin himself has also begun attending sporadic campaign meetings, but is reluctant to speak to the media. As Deputy Chief Minister, he had been at the frontline of the BJP's leadership. On one famous occasion, he had declared that he was the replacement for Anandiben Patel as Gujarat Chief Minister in 2016, only to have Mr. Rupani pip him to the post that very afternoon.

In all those years, says Kishore Prajapati, a BJP worker in the area, "Nitin *bhai* was the real administrative head of the government."

In 2017, he beat Jivabhai Patel of the Congress by a smaller margin than before, but as Mehsana was the epicentre of the Patidar reservation agitation, and he himself had been at the receiving end of a lot of opprobrium from his own Patidar community leaders, his victory had a big symbolic effect.

Counter polarisation

"Nitin *bhai's* victory happened not only because Patidars dominate in this seat but also to counter polarisation. Once the Patidar community openly supported the Congress in 2017, many of the communities which opposed the Patidars voted for the BJP," said Rajitsinh Thakor, the Congress's district president for Mehsana.

Whatever be the case, the symbolism of the BJP triumphing will not go unnoticed in Mehsana, where the Patidar reservation agitation began and Mr. Nitin's reputation gained heft, not enough to contest another time, but large enough to shed a very big shadow over the seat.

Won't hesitate to take 'tough decision', says Congress

Press Trust of India
INDORE

Amid the power tussle between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday said if needed, the party will not shy away from taking "tough decisions" to strengthen the organisation in that State. For the Congress, its organisation in Rajasthan is most important, Mr. Ramesh, the party's general secretary incharge of communications, told reporters.

Mr. Gehlot on Thursday told the *NDTV* channel that Mr. Pilot is a 'gaddar' (traitor) and cannot replace him, drawing a sharp response from his former deputy who said such "mudslinging" would not help, in an escalation of their rift days ahead of the entry of Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' into the desert State.

Mr. Pilot had hit back at Mr. Gehlot to say it was unbecoming of his stature to use the kind of language to attack him and make completely "false and baseless" allegations.

AAP will win Gujarat Assembly election, says Kejriwal in Surat

The Delhi CM said that his predictions for Delhi and Punjab came true; he promises to implement old pension scheme in the State by January 31

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday made a written assertion that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will win the Assembly election and form the government in Gujarat.

He urged the government employees in Gujarat to back the AAP while promising implementation of the old pension scheme (OPS) for them by January 31 next year.

Addressing a press conference in Surat, the AAP national convener said his predictions for the Delhi and the Punjab Assembly elections came true, and the same would happen in Gujarat as well.

He claimed people were so scared of the BJP that they shy away from openly admitting support for the AAP in the Gujarat Assembly election.

Confident of victory: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal showing his prediction written on a piece of paper in Surat on Sunday. PTI

"I am going to make a prediction in writing in front of you all... Note down the prediction that the AAP is going to form a government in Gujarat. The citizens of Gujarat will get relief from these people (BJP)," Mr. Kejriwal said. He then wrote his prediction on a piece of paper and showed it to media persons. He asked the employees seeking the OPS, among other demands, to help his party form a government in the State.

Mr. Kejriwal said, "By January 31, we will issue a notification for implementing the old pension scheme in Gujarat. I am not just talking. In Punjab, we have issued the notification."

The BJP was agitated because it was staring at defeat, and the Congress was nowhere in the picture, he claimed.

"We have contested elections in many States, but Gujarat is the first State where people are scared of declaring whom they would vote for," he said.

Kutiyana's 'muscleman' MLA fights to retain his stronghold in Gujarat

Sandeep Phukan
PORBANDAR

Kaam boleche (work speaks), blares the loudspeaker atop an SUV as it leads the motorcade of a strongman and two-time lawmaker, Kandhal Jadeja, into Teri village of Porbandar district.

His Assembly constituency, Kutiyana, is barely 40 km from Mahatma Gandhi's birthplace of Porbandar, but the constituency is more well known for its controversial legislator.

Son of the late Santokben Jadeja, whose underworld activities inspired the Hindi movie *Godmother*, Kandhal *bhai*, as he is popularly known, managed to win twice (2012 and 2017) as a Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) candidate.

But he is contesting the current election on the bicycle symbol of the Samajwadi Party. He was denied ticket by the NCP after he voted for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Rajya Sabha election in which Congress leader Ahmed Patel was a candidate.

"In the Rajya Sabha election, I voted for the BJP so that my work in the constituency doesn't suffer. For any public work, you need the help of the State government or the Centre," says Kandhal *bhai*, who had several criminal cases lodged against him. Being from the dominant Mer community – which is said to have been part of feudal militia in the erstwhile princely state of Porbandar apart from being agriculturists – Kandhal *bhai* has a natural advantage as his community forms the bulk of the voters.

Tough fight: Samajwadi Party candidate Kandhal Jadeja during his campaign at Teri village in Porbandar on Sunday. VIJAY SONEJI

Image of a don

But over the years, he has also acquired a reputation of being an accessible leader who can break through the red tape of officialdom and get any work done.

"That may be true but he has the image of a don and that makes all the difference," says a BJP member from Porbandar who didn't wish to be named.

The ring of personal bodyguards and armed security officers (PSOs) around Kandhal *bhai* is a subtle reminder of his controversial background.

Countering allegations of pursuing musclemen politics, Kandhal *bhai* says, "I have come here to seek my votes. These are my votes on the basis of my work. My mother and uncle also represented them."

His speech outside a temple in the Teri village is not very impressive and reads like a laundry list of work done using his MLA funds. Not many people volunteer when he asks people to list out their issues. An old man, however, questions why an additional check dam that the village was promised has not been built.

Kandhal *bhai*'s reply: "Dam has been sanctioned and work will start soon."

"He keeps winning because of the Mer community," says the old man who had questioned him at the election meeting but refused to share his name.

It's a political calculation other parties have done. Not the Aam Aadmi Party, but the Congress and the BJP have fielded candidates from the Mer community.

Dheliben Odedera of the BJP, who headed the Kutiyana Municipal Board for over two decades, is seen as the main challenger.

"I am not scared of contesting against him. Voters of Kutiyana know me and my work," the BJP candidate says, adding, "They will vote for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development work. We are winning this election."

Ahead of Padmapur byelection, BJP and BJD lock horns over key projects in Odisha

Satyasundar Barik
PAIKAMAL

With both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) locked in a bitter contest over the crucial Padmapur Assembly byelection, two Union Ministers on Sunday lobbed the ball in the Naveen Patnaik government's court for the stagnation of key development projects and the pending payments under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana (PMFBY).

As the campaign for the byelection entered the last phase, the Ministers, Narendra Singh Tomar and Ashwini Vaishnaw, took the train from Raipur, capital of Chhattishgarh, to Khariar Road in Odisha and attempted to debunk a barrage of allegations by the ruling BJD.

Mr. Vaishnaw fired the first salvo at the BJD.

"Odisha Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu wrote stating that the Centre had not taken any step for laying of new railway line between Nuapada and Bargarh via Paikmal and Padmapur. Prasanna Acharya, senior BJD leader, repeated the allegation. How can they tell such lies? The Narendra Modi government had sanctioned new railway line. I challenge them to make land for a new railway line available today, the work will commence day after tomorrow."

"The new railway line between Nuapada and Bargarh is the right of people. This cannot be taken away by anyone. Mr. Modi is committed to fulfilling his promise for Odisha. All railway projects that had been lagging behind schedule are making progress due to the effort of the Prime Minister. During the Congress regime, only ₹800 crore was being given to Odisha in the railway sector. The railway allocation for the State had touched an astronomical ₹10,000 crore this year," he said.

Stiff competition: BJD candidate Barsha Singh Bariha campaigning in the Padmapur Assembly constituency on Sunday. BISWARANJAN ROUT

For improvement of mobile connectivity, the Modi government had provided ₹5,600 crore, he said. "Had the Centre received cooperation from the Odisha government, one would not imagine the speed of development in the State," the BJP MP from Odisha said.

Mr. Tomar said that it was the responsibility of the State government to identify an insurance company under the PMFBY, survey the extent of damage during natural disasters and file claim with insurance company. "Our job is to pay the Central share for insurance payment before time. As far as the non-payment of crop insurance is concerned, the Central share has already paid to the State government," he said.

In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Mr. Patnaik said, "*Kendu* leaf, a miner forest produce, is the financial backbone of about eight lakh *kendu* leaf pluckers, binders and seasonal workers, and the imposition of GST of 18% on kendu leaves is adversely affecting the kendu leaf traders. It is urged upon to withdraw imposition of GST on *kendu* leaves for greater interest of the State."

The byelection in the Padmapur constituency is scheduled for December 5.

डीआईपीआर नं. 13806 दिनांक: 31.10.2022

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत, सिरोही

क्रमांक: एकाउंट/निविदा/2022-23/

-: निविदा संशोधन सूचना 06/2022-23:-

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 06/2022-23 में क्रम संख्या 2 पर अंकित कार्य की निविदाएं ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत किये जाने की दिनांक 15.12.2022 को सायं 6.00 बजे तक बढ़ाई जाती है। तकनीकी निविदायें दिनांक 16.12.2022 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे संबंधित कार्यालय में ऑनलाईन खोली जावेगी। निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

NIB Code : PWD2223A2488, UBN : PWD2223WSOB09742

(कपिल वर्मा),
डीआईपीआर/सी/14962/2022 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत सिरोही

REBUILD KERALA INITIATIVE (RKI)
Planning & Economic Affairs (RKI) Department, Government of Kerala
1A, CALSAR Heather Tower, Punnen Road,
Near Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram-695001.

NOTICE OF TENDER

No. RKI1/93/2022-PLGEA-PMSS-2 Dated 26/11/2022

The Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) had appointed a Consultant for providing Project Management Support Services (PMSS) for the Rebuild Kerala Initiative. Now, upon completion of their services, the RKI invites proposals for selection of a Consultant for PMSS for the next phase.

Tender Id.	Type	Description
2022_RKIS_533895_1	Consultancy Service	Consultancy Service for Project Management Support Services (PMSS) for the Rebuild Kerala Initiative

Details can be accessed at e-procurement portal:
https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.
The last date for submission of bids: 20/12/2022 16:00 hrs IST.
For general information, please contact: Ph.0471-2332744/2333744;
email: rkisecretariat@gmail.com, rkisecretariat@kerala.gov.in.
Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, RKI

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL EDUCATION SOCIETY, JAIPUR
(DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION)
Govind Marg, Opp. Psychiatric Hospital, Jaipur

No. F.6(56)/Raj-MES/Store/CT-Scan-Proc./2022/14351 Dated. 18-11-2022

Time Extension Notice
NIB No. 54/2022-23

The schedule of dates for E-Tender Notice Inviting No. F.6(56)/Raj-MES/Store/CT-Scan-Proc./2022/13791 dated 20.10.2022 (Notice inviting Bid No. 54/2022-23 for Turnkey Project for supply, installation of 128 Slice Dual Energy CT-Scanner with State of Art Advance Technology For Raj-MES Medical College Located at Bharatpur, Bhilwara and Dungarpur are now being extended as below:-

S. No.	Description	Previous Date & Time	Amended Date & Time
1	Document download End Date	21.11.2022 6.00 PM.	01.12.2022 6.00 PM.
2	Bid Submission End Date	21.11.2022 6.00 PM.	01.12.2022 6.00 PM.
3	Submission of Demand Draft/Banker Cheque for Tender Fee, Processing fees and Bid Security Amount (as per applicability) At the office of Director, Rajasthan Medical Education Society, Jaipur.	21.11.2022 6.00 PM.	01.12.2022 6.00 PM.
4	Technical Bid Opening Date	22.11.2022 11.00 AM.	02.12.2022 11.00 AM.

Above mentioned Detailed tender notice and documents can be seen on website http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

UBN : MES2223GLOB00073

Director
DIPR/C/14963 Raj-MES

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI
(A University of Law Established by Act No. 1 of 2008 of NCT of Delhi)
Sector-14, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Applications are invited for the appointment of **Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi** from eligible candidates.

Details regarding the eligibility are available on the university website: **www.nludelhi.ac.in**. Duly filled in applications may be sent by e-mail to:

convenerselectioncommittee@nludelhi.ac.in
and/or by speed post to:

The Convener, VC Selection Committee, National Law University Delhi, Sector-14, Dwarka, New Delhi- 110078, on or before December 28, 2022.

Convener
Selection Committee

ANNA UNIVERSITY
SARDAR PATEL ROAD, CHENNAI - 600 025.

NOTIFICATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF ACADEMIC STAFF
Notification No.001/RC/UD-FR/2022, dated: 28.11.2022.

Applications are invited only through online mode, from Indian Nationals possessing excellent academic background and commitment to quality in teaching and research, for the vacant positions of **Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor in the Department of Planning,** School of Architecture and Planning Campus of Anna University. For more details please visit the University web-portal **www.annauniv.edu.**

DIPR/1201/DISPLAY/2022 REGISTRAR i/c

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत बाड़मेर

क्रमांक: 1851 दिनांक : 19.11.2022

निविदा सूचना संख्या: 06 वर्ष 2022-2023

NIB No. PWD2223A.....

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्यों** हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 03 कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रू. 511.36 लाख है के लिए ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख	:	21 नवम्बर 2022, 9:30 बजे से 12 दिसम्बर 2022, सायं 06:00 बजे तक

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http:// eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट पर http:// eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। कार्यवार यू. बी. एन. संख्या निम्नानुसार है:-

PWD2223WSRC11323, PWD2223WSRC11324, PWD2223WSRC11325

(संजीव जैन)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/14952/22 सा.नि.वि. वृत बाड़मेर

INBRIEF

Bridge over railway track collapses, at least 13 injured

Thirteen persons were injured, one of them seriously, as they fell on a railway track after a portion of a foot over-bridge collapsed at a railway station in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra on Sunday, an official said. The incident occurred at the Balharshah railway station, around 150 km from Nagpur, at 5.10 p.m., he said. "A large number of passengers were using the bridge to board a Pune-bound train, when a part of the structure suddenly caved in. As a result, some people fell on the track below from a height of around 20 feet," the official said. The injured persons were rushed to a hospital. One of them has suffered head injuries and his condition is critical, he said. PTI

Shinde gives nod to set up Assam Bhavan in Mumbai

The Maharashtra government has approved Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's request for the construction of an Assam Bhavan in Navi Mumbai. Mr. Sarma announced that his government will allot land to set up a Maharashtra Bhavan in the northeastern State. "Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who met Mr. Sarma in Guwahati on Saturday evening, has approved his request for the construction of an Assam Bhavan in Navi Mumbai, while they will provide land for Maharashtra Bhavan in Assam," a statement from Mr. Shinde's office said on Sunday.

Assam government lifts travel restrictions to Meghalaya

The Assam government has lifted travel restrictions to Meghalaya almost a week after six people were killed in firing on the boundary between the two States. The decision to ease the curbs was taken in view of the improving law-and-order situation in Meghalaya, the Assam police said. "All vehicles are being allowed to move to Shillong and other parts of Meghalaya," Sudhakar Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police for Guwahati, said on Sunday. He asserted that the movement of commercial vehicles carrying essentials and other items had never been restricted after the flare-up at Mukroh, a village on the inter-State boundary.

UNESCO award for Mumbai museum restoration project

The restoration of the 100-year-old Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in Mumbai has won the 'Award of Excellence' in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The museum is a part of the Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai's world heritage property. It was established as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India in 1922. UNESCO Bangkok, in a statement, said the jury hailed it as a project that "sets a standard" for the conservation of heritage monuments. "The jury applauded the museum project for restoring 'a major civic institution in the historic city of Mumbai'," it said. PTI

'Invitation from India as a G-20 guest shows growing importance of Bangladesh economy'

Bangladesh is seeking more energy from India and refined crude from Russia, says its Deputy Foreign Minister Shahriar Alam; on strain in ties with the U.S and the European Union, he says Dhaka is not going to succumb to any pressure, and dismisses concerns raised over attacks on minorities

INTERVIEW

Shahriar Alam

Suhasini Haidar
DHAKA

Out of all of India's neighbours, the Indian government has invited only Bangladesh as one of 10 guest countries during its presidency of the G-20 beginning on December 1. Ties are likely to strengthen as a result of the invitation, which comes amid a number of energy and connectivity projects between the two countries, says Bangladesh's Deputy Foreign Minister Shahriar Alam, who speaks about plans to source energy needs from Russia, for the first time, and a possible strain in ties with the West.

What are the issues you would like to see on the G-20 agenda next year?

We are grateful to India for inviting Bangladesh. The invitation also shows the growing importance of Bangladesh as one of the world's fastest growing economies – already the 41st largest economy, which is going to be the 32nd largest by 2030. Bangladesh would like to share its experience with other member states on climate change. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have identified poverty as the most common enemy. I think climate change and economic prosperity for our citizens are the priorities for us.

During Ms. Hasina's visit in September, India and Bangladesh agreed to a number of energy projects, including a high-speed-diesel pipeline. What is the progress in these agreements?

The pipeline is one of them. The other major one is the Rooppur nuclear power plant that we are setting up with the help of Russian technology and funding. India is funding under an LOC (Line of Credit) the distribution, the transmission lines, alongside Bangladesh's own funding. The Adani electricity plant [in Jharkhand] is ready for integration on December 16, and during this time of power shortage or energy shortages in the oil market, that will surely help. We are also working with India on proposals for renewable energy, bringing solar energy from the Indian grid.

There are also reports of Russian energy supplies coming to Bangladesh – is that something also that you are speaking to India about?

When the [Ukraine] war broke out, [and sanctions began] Russian energy sounded like a very cheap option, and India has made very good use of that. So we explored [importing Russian oil] but unfortunately, Bangladesh has just one large refinery, and that is not suitable for Russian crude. So that's not going to happen. What we are discussing with the Russians now is the supply of refined products, and Russian LNG.

Could this impact ties with the U.S. and EU countries, that have seen some strain over human rights issues?

Energy and food are considered to be essential commodities that a nation is entitled to procure in its interests. Beyond that, we have defence cooperation with Russia, and these are historical, need-based, and bilateral in nature. I wouldn't call it a strain [in ties with the West]. Our engagement, bilateral engagement with the U.S., has increased, and we have a dialogue on promoting private sectors, which we could only do if we had some comfort in the relationship. On some of the comments [made by the U.S., EU, and Japan about Bangladesh], I think we made our position absolutely clear that... Ambassadors and foreign diplomats should be mindful of their duties, and limitations and boundaries...We are not going to succumb to any pressure.

Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan recently met with Indian Home Minister Amit Shah, who raised concerns over attacks on the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh. What is your response?

During [Durga] Puja this year, Bangladesh had the highest number of about 32,000 *mandaps* (*pandals*). I represent a constituency of 10-plus percentage of Hindu community and I see growth in number of minorities every year. When there was an incident [attack] last year, Prime Minister Hasina herself paid a visit to the spot and we pursued an inquiry. We have seen [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] governments that promoted fundamentalism and extreme right-wing ideas. But I think Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was successful in bringing that harmony back and we have conveyed that.

You are saying that it's a problem of the past. Yet in its affidavit on the Citizenship Amendment Act just a few weeks ago, the Indian government said that Bangladesh, like Afghanistan and Pakistan, does not protect its minorities. How do you respond?

I can't respond to what [the Indian government] says in court. We will only voice our opinion if they raise it with us. The court order is the [Indian] government's problem, they are the ones who will have to communicate this to us, and then only we will react. In this world of eight billion people, there will always be some issues somewhere. But it's how the government is reacting, and whether enough policies are in place to ensure that rights of all individual is upheld.

Nagaland group to raise its bifurcation bid with Shah

The Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation has decided not to participate in the Hornbill Festival and threatened to boycott the 2023 Assembly election in the State if its demand is not fulfilled

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Leaders of a group representing six districts seeking to break away from Nagaland are scheduled to discuss its Statehood demand with Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on December 3.

A spokesperson of the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) said Mr. Shah has invited a team to discuss the Statehood demand for six of Nagaland's 16 districts.

Six major tribes dominating these districts have been demanding the creation of 'Frontier Nagaland'

Amit Shah

to be free from "decades of neglect".

To skip festival

The ENPO had earlier decided not to participate in the State's flagship Hornbill Festival that starts on December 1. The annual festival at Kisama near State capital Kohima showcases the culture and tradition of all the ethnic communities of Nagaland.

Nagaland's Chief Secretary, J. Alam, said the government had requested the ENPO and all the associated tribal leaders to reconsider their decision. The government is awaiting a positive response from them, Mr. Alam added.

Launching its Statehood demand in August, the ENPO threatened to boycott the 2023 Assembly election in the State if its demand for the bifurcation of Nagaland was not fulfilled. "If the Centre fails to respond to our appeal, we shall ask all our 20 elected representatives (MLAs) to resign," the spokesperson said.

Nagaland has a total of 60 Assembly seats and 20 of these are in six districts – Kiphire, Longleng, Mon, Noklak, Shamator and Tuensang.

The ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) has 15 of these seats, ally Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has four, and one MLA is Independent. The NDPP has 42 MLAs in the State Assembly, the BJP has 12, and the Naga People's Front has four, while two are Independents.

With new Bill, govt. cannot violate privacy: IT Minister

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Rajeev Chandrasekhar

The government will not be able to violate the privacy of citizens under the proposed data protection law as it will get access to personal data only in exceptional circumstances like national security, pandemic and natural disasters, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said.

Speaking during an online discussion, the Minister said the National Data Governance Framework Policy had provision for handling anonymisation of data, which was not part of the draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill, 2022.

Mr. Chandrasekhar also said the proposed Data Protection Board, which would adjudicate matters related to data protection, would be independent and not have any government officer.

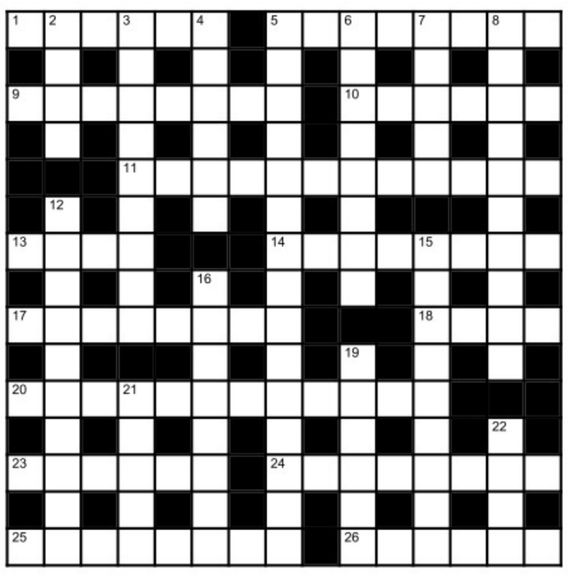
"Let us say that the government wants to essentially violate the privacy of citizens with this law. Is it possible? That's the question. The answer is no," Mr. Chandrasekhar said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13722

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Some years ago, Iberians turned over fuel from waste (6)
5 Lack of current in European river - water contaminated with trace of red copper (5,3)
9 Ordering of song with cello, striking front end of stick (3,5)
10 Crooks having the French replaced by the Spanish messengers (6)
11 This easy life can turn romantic, perhaps? (8,4)
13 Learner entertained by John's online publication (4)
14 Dealer in elastic and rubber, principally all over India (8)
17 Possibly, New Delhi's not originally near the boundaries of Khilji's capital ? (8)
18 Haphazardly swerve, leaving corner (4)
20 Awe-inspiring Pranayama, maybe? (12)
23 Moon rocks our planet at regular intervals (6)
24 Tomb carries assassin - heartless and cruel (8)
25 Picked up freezing bird moving out with young 'uns (8)
26 South American female, say, in a place south of London (6)

Down

2 Hero in pink gown stripped every now and then (4)
3 US lawyer barred from temple amidst carnivals in Ecuadorean territory (9)
4 Iguanas killed a curious monkey (6)
5 Delaying tactics of expert in probing anti-Castro revolutionary (15)
6 Where one may find folks exchanging messages in straw hats, apparently (8)
7 Build National Park around Indian state (3,2)
8 Wanting basic education free, learner enters for primer in French (10)
12 Nomadic group, abducted by miscreants, about to spend the night in the open (5,5)
15 After losing rhythm in the beginning, Laver goes berserk, winning match #1, 6-0, 6-0 (4,5)
16 Threatening articles on Avtaar carried by popular newspaper at the end (2,3,3)
19 Spectacles model wearing pants (6)
21 Dozen characters from a large islet (5)
22 Former Unionist escaping from leopard (4)

SUDOKU

			3	7				
9	6							8
	8			6	5			2
	9				4	6	8	
3								1
	4	5	1				3	
7			5	8			9	
1							2	3
				1	3			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS5632 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	C	R	E	E	D	S		H	O	O	P	O	O	
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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	5	2	1	9	3	6	7
1	7	6	5	3	8	4	9	2
9	2	3	7	4	6	1	5	8
7	5	1	9	2	3	6	8	4
2	6	4	1	8	5	9	7	3
8	3	9	6	7	4	5	2	1
6	4	7	8	5	1	2	3	9
5	1	2	3	9	7	8	4	6
3	9	8	4	6	2	7	1	5

FAITH

Kolaru Padhigam

Our deeds done in the past are zipped in one basket and sealed as Karma which decides what is to be given to us. Various celestials are nominated by Supreme Lord and are delegated the necessary powers to monitor us. They grant us good or bad according to our deeds. Among them the nine planets called Navagraha are important. They are very impartial, neutral and unbiased in executing their work. Of them the planet Saturn is considered to be more vigorous. It is believed that Saturn is incharge of justice and for longevity of a person. The word Eswara is suffixed to Saturn and called Saneeswara for his balanced prowess. How do we get problems? If we indulge in proscribed or sinful activities. We face a twin pronged attack. On one side Goddesses Lakshmi, Durga, Saraswathi, Mother Earth and others deprecate our acts and withdraw their blessings. On the other we get diseases, develop fears and are traumatised. We become inescapable like a toad in the mouth of a poisonous snake.

The Saivite apostle Thirugnanasambandhar had praised Lord Shiva in Vedharanyam also known as Thirumaraikadu because all the Vedas praised the Lord here. The apostle composed Kolaru Padhigam. In that he says those who chant this hymn will not be disturbed by Navagrahas or other planets, even if they are destined to be punished. He has made a swearing that no adverse will occur to us if we recited. Lord is called Bhuvanavidangar here. Kol refers to planets, Aru refers to liberate and Padhigam the hymns. So Kolaru Padhigam is meant to release us from the clutches of the planets, said Smt. Vasuki Manoharan in a discourse.

MONEYWISE

ASKUS

N. Sree Kanth

Q My parents worked for 24 years in the Gulf and now plan to return to India for retirement. Since they had NRI, NRE accounts, they did not have to pay taxes. But now, they may have to. What are the tax rates? Any way to reduce them?
ABINA

A On returning to India after retirement, your parents first lose their Non-Resident status (in case they are in India for 182 days or more in a particular assessment year). However, they shall be considered Resident but not Ordinarily Resident (RNOR) if they fulfil the following conditions, they are non-residents in 9 out of 10 immediately preceding years and have been in India for 729 days or less in the preceding 7 years.
The benefit of RNOR is that they will be taxed only for incomes being received or accrued in India only and not any other global income. However, once NRE accounts are converted to regular savings accounts, the incomes arising out of such accounts are taxable as per the slab rates only (NRO accounts are always taxable irrespective of the status of the residency). The slabs vary for senior, super-senior and non-senior citizens. Also the assessee is given an option to choose from new or old regime where the tax rates, slabs and deductions/exemptions vary. You may look into investing in investment modes as prescribed in Section 80C such as ELSS mutual funds, tax-saving FDs, NSC, senior citizen saving schemes to avail deductions of up to ₹1,50,000 from the total income. You are advised to look into each of these options and understand the applicability and conditions prior to making the investment. However, it is to be noted that if new regime is chosen, deductions under Section 80C cannot be availed.

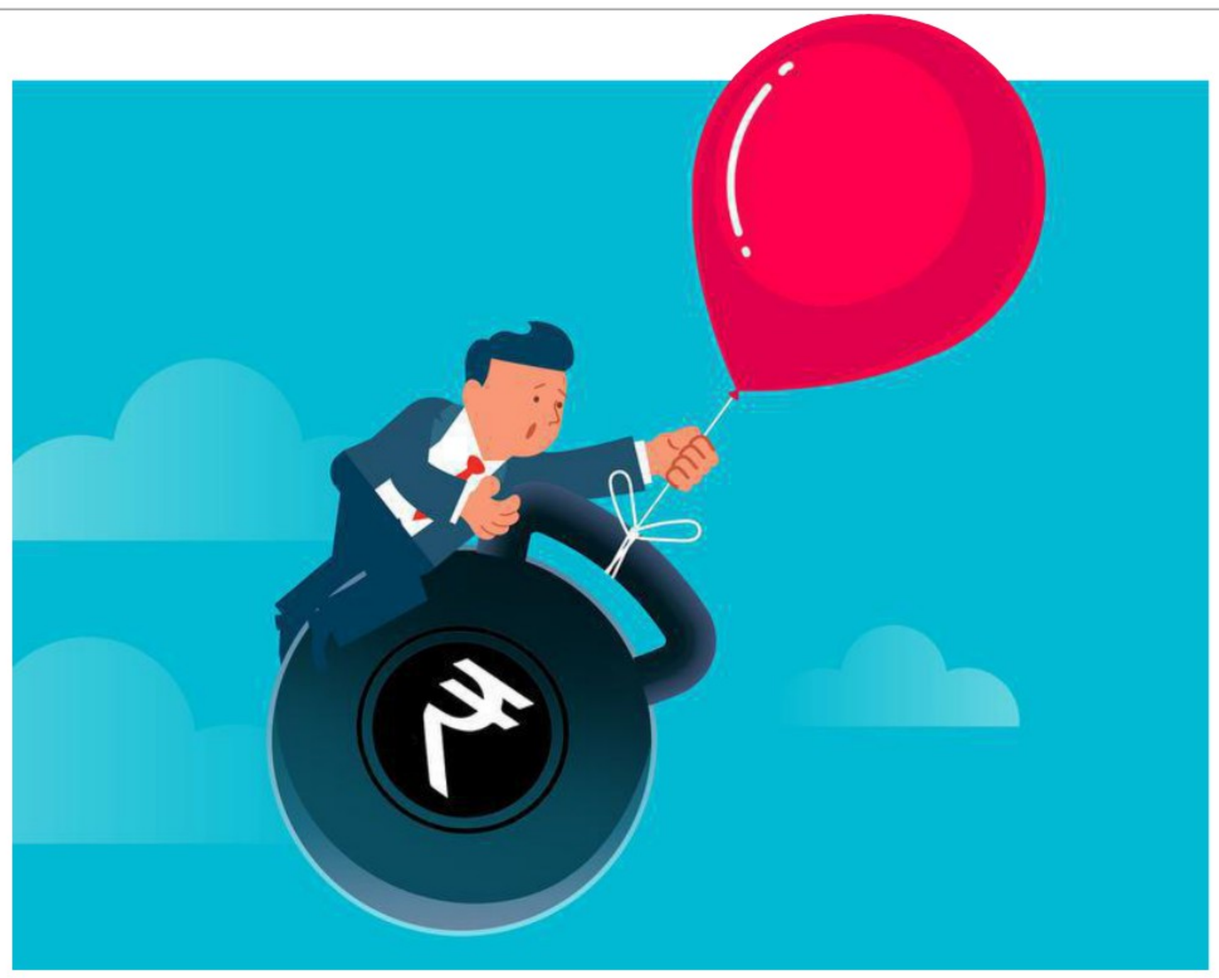
Q I had invested ₹5 lakh in an NCD of Hedge equities in October 2016 for five years. In October 2021, I got ₹8,61,196 (Principal +Interest). What is the tax liability?
SATHEESHBABU R.

A It is assumed you subscribed to the Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) during the issue and held it till maturity, leading to redemption of principal and interest accrued. As you have held the NCDs until maturity, the entire principal invested is redeemed whereby there is no gain/loss in the principal redeemed amount as against the principal invested amount. Only the interest element of the NCD is taxable under the head 'Income from Other Sources' and is to be included in your total taxable income.

Q I had contributed to my EPF account only for 3 years from 2012 to 2015. I quit in 2015. I have not made any withdrawals from my EPF account till date. I plan to withdraw money from my account this financial year. I have the following tax-related queries :
Is my contribution to EPF during 2012-2015 taxable? I claimed deductions in my Income Tax under Sec 80C then. Is the interest accrued till date for my contribution taxable? Is the employer's contribution towards EPF during 2012-2015 taxable? Is the interest accrued till date for the employer's contribution taxable? Is the employer's contribution towards the EPF Pension Scheme taxable?
RAGHU

A As you were not in employment for 5 years of continuous service, EPF withdrawal is taxable in the following manner (point-wise reply) :
1) As deduction under Section 80C was availed, contribution to EPF is taxable under the head "Income from Salary."
2) Interest accrued on your contribution is taxable under the head "Income from Other Sources."
3) Employer's contribution is taxable under the head "Income from Salary."
4) Interest accrued on employer's contribution is taxable under the head "Income from Other Sources"
5) Employer's contribution towards Employee Pension Scheme is taxable.
(The writer is a partner, GSS and Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.



The importance of making every rupee pay

Despite rising incomes and rapidly upscaling lifestyles, higher earnings are not translating into commensurate wealth as most people aren't conscious of their potential

INCOME MANAGEMENT

Shyam Sekhar

We live in times when salary growth is higher than ever before. Incomes are rising fast and lifestyles rapidly upscaling.

Yet, we don't seem to be translating our higher incomes into commensurate wealth. Clearly, most people aren't conscious of their potential and are simply going with the flow.

They feel secure because their incomes are high and growing. This security is what stops them from critically evaluating their personal finances. But, life keeps changing, and we arrive at a point where we need to act fast. Usually, a crisis is what triggers the rethink.

Big-ticket expenses

Life circumstances, sudden bursts of big-ticket expenditure and expanding budgets make you wonder if everything is alright.

Rahul got this feeling when faced with an unexpected health event in the family. He was financially unprepared for the event and had no option but to contribute significantly towards ballooning hospital expenses. While the health outcome was positive, the damage to Rahul's personal finances was significant. He was now uncertain about how he would recoup his finances back to good health. Other financial responsibilities to his immediate family were coming up and he needed to think and act fast. But, he was clearly lost.

At some point in time, everybody feels that they could have done more with their savings.

They are unclear about whether their finances are in good shape or if they are running late.

At the age of 40, for the first time, Rahul woke up to these worries. He decided to take the advice of a financial planner. His friends suggested drawing a financial plan to sort out finances and get the much-needed clarity.

The first thing that Rahul learnt was that he had actually missed out on a lot he needed to do in his 30s.

Now, he needed to speed up things so that he could catch up some of what he had missed doing earlier. His life-goals were fast advancing and most of them could not be put off to a later date.

Catching up fast

Times had changed, and the financial flexibility that he had in the 30's was not going to be available to him in his 40s. Rahul had to catch up on the fast-approaching goals like higher education and still try to produce more out of his present income. Clearly, doing more in lesser time needed precise planning, prescient actions, and proper strategy. When you need to produce more out of lesser time, a lot needs to change in your life. So what could Rahul do differently to rebuild his personal finances?

> The land of Opportunity is an attitude. It is an openness to new ideas, a willingness to listen, an eagerness to learn, a desire to grow and the flexibility to change
>
> B.J.GALLAGHER
> WARREN H SCHMIDT

He needed to take his finances seriously and work on them continuously. Productivity and efficiency are watchwords usually not associated with personal finance. We relate them more to producing goods or delivering services.

But, personal finance is seen as what we do more for our own needs. Yet, personal finance needs more of the two than anything else. We never realise what productivity and efficiency can do to improve our finances significantly. This is especially true of late-bloomers in financial planning.

Efficient investing

When you need to grow your monies precisely within a shorter timeline, you need to ensure that your savings are strong, investing is efficient, and the investment process is productive. You will need regular reviewing, monitoring, course corrections and repurposing of investments. One cannot follow a more casual spray and pray approach like regular monthly SIP investing.

A specialist must keep watch over your finances, the investment performance, the evolving decision needs and guide you every step of the way.

Rahul knew he needed help. And, he accepted that he could never do everything by himself. This acceptance is usually what most people find difficult to bring themselves to.

By recognising this in a timely way, Rahul decided to move forward and fix his finances right. The planner would guide him every step of the way and ensure that he gets to where he needs to be in a time-bound manner.

He cannot afford delays or failures and knows it only too well.

Reaching this state of decision making is what will take your finances forward. The gains you need are probably much more than just financial.

Financial planning done in a timely and disciplined manner delivers purpose and peace of mind.

(The writer is the Founder of ithought, a SEBI-registered RIA and PMS firm)

Tap bank deposits for life goals

THINKINVESTOR

Bank deposits are an important tool to achieve life goals as maturity value is known. They also avoid the pitfalls of a high degree of uncertainty associated with returns on equity investment

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Bank deposits are good for goal-based portfolios, especially for high-priority goals. Here, we discuss two benefits of investing in bank deposits and the cost associated with such investments.

Stable returns

When you invest to achieve a goal, you want to know how much the investment will accumulate at the end of the time horizon for a life goal. Equity can offer higher returns but carries a high level of uncertainty.

Bonds have a finite life. By bonds, we mean all interest-bearing investments, ranging from government bonds to bank fixed deposits. Because of a finite life, you know the maturity value of a bond investment. For instance, if you invest in a 10-year government bond, you know that the bond will be redeemed at par after 10 years.

But you must avoid reinvestment risk associated with such investments. Suppose you have lump-sum money which must earn 4% annual return over 10 years to accumulate the required amount to achieve a goal. This required return of 4%, called the minimum acceptable return (MAR), is a compounded post-tax annual return. This means the interest income you earn each year must be reinvested to earn 4% after taxes over the remaining time horizon for the goal. The risk that you may be forced to reinvest and earn a rate lower than 4% is the reinvestment risk.

Bank deposits can help you avoid such a risk. You must choose cumulative fixed deposits for investing lump-sum money and recurring deposits when you want to invest every month. Suppose you invest in a five-year cumulative deposit at 5.75%, the bank agrees to compound interest at 5.75% over the five-year period. This way, you can avoid reinvestment risk and know the maturity value of the investment at the end of five years.

Conclusion

The optimal choice would be to match the maturity of bank deposit with the time horizon for your life goal. There are two deterrents. One, bonds generate low return because they provide stable cash flows. You must, therefore, add equity investments to bond exposure to achieve life goals. And two, interest income on bonds is taxable at your marginal tax rate. Also, in the case of cumulative and recurring deposits, you must pay taxes on accrued interest (interest earned but not yet received). Despite these issues, bank deposits are important for goal-based portfolios.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.50	5.85	7.50	6.95
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.25	6.65	6.65	6.50
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.10	7.40	6.75
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.00	5.50	5.75	5.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.75	7.00	7.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.55	7.00	7.55	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.01	7.00	7.25	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.50	7.20	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	6.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
Bandhan Bank	7.50	7.00	7.00	5.60
CSB Bank	7.50	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.25	6.25	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	7.50	6.75	7.50	7.25
HDFC Bank	6.50	6.10	6.50	6.50
ICICI Bank	6.60	6.10	6.50	6.60
IDFC First Bank	7.25	6.25	6.50	6.50
IndusInd Bank	7.25	6.75	6.75	6.75
Karnataka Bank	7.20	6.40	5.75	5.75
Karur Vysya Bank	7.25	6.50	7.00	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.50	6.25	6.30	6.20
RBL Bank	7.25	6.50	6.55	6.55
SBM Bank India	8.00	6.40	6.40	6.15
South Indian Bank	7.00	6.50	5.90	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	6.50	6.30	6.00	6.00
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	6.75	6.10	6.25	6.10
Bank of India	7.25	5.75	6.25	5.75
Bank of Maharashtra	6.30	6.00	6.00	5.75
Canara Bank	7.00	6.25	6.50	6.50
Indian Bank	6.50	6.10	6.40	6.40
Indian Overseas Bank	6.40	6.30	6.40	6.40
Punjab National Bank	7.00	6.30	6.25	6.10
Punjab & Sind Bank	6.25	6.10	6.10	6.10
State Bank of India	6.25	6.10	6.10	6.10
Union Bank of India	7.00	6.30	6.70	6.70
Foreign Banks				
Citibank	6.75	6.75	3.50	3.50
Deutsche Bank	7.25	6.25	7.00	7.00
HSBC Bank	7.00	3.10	7.00	6.00

Rates as on November 23

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.40-9.15	8.40-9.05	8.40-9.05
Bank of Baroda	8.25-10.00	8.25-10.00	8.25-10.25
Union Bank of India	8.25-10.15	8.25-10.35	8.25-10.35
Punjab National Bank	8.25 - 9.00	8.20 - 8.90	8.20 - 8.90
Bank of India	8.30-10.25	8.30-10.25	8.30-10.25
Canara Bank	8.55-13.35	8.55-13.35	8.55-13.35
UCO Bank	8.40-8.60	8.40-8.60	8.40-8.60
Bank of Maharashtra	8.00-10.20	8.00-10.35	8.00-10.45
Indian Overseas Bank	8.95-10.35	8.50 onwards	8.50 onwards
Private Sector Banks			
ICICI Bank	8.40-9.50	8.40-9.50	8.40-9.50
Axis Bank	8.60-12.70	8.60-12.70	8.60-9.05
HSBC Bank	8.35-9.20	8.35-9.20	8.35-9.20
South Indian Bank	9.25-12.00	9.25-12.00	9.25-12.00
Karur Vysya Bank	8.60-9.50	8.60-9.50	8.60-9.50
Karnataka Bank	8.54-9.79	8.54-9.79	8.54-9.89
Federal Bank	8.37-9.60	8.37-9.65	8.37-9.70
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.00-10.15	9.00-10.15	9.00-10.15
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.30	8.30	8.30
Bandhan Bank	8.30-14.00	8.30-13.65	8.30-13.65
RBL Bank	11.30-13.00	9.70-10.10	9.70-10.00
CSB Bank	9.69	9.69	9.94
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.30-10.00	8.30-10.20	8.30-10.40
HDFC Ltd.	8.40-10.00	8.40-10.25	8.40-10.35
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.20 onwards	8.20 onwards	8.20 onwards
Tata Capital	>=8.60	>=8.60	>=8.60
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-13.00	8.50-13.00	8.60-11.70
GIC Housing Finance	>=8.10	>=8.10	>=8.10
Repco Home Finance	>=8.30	>=8.30	>=8.30
Indiabulls Housing	>=8.95	>=8.95	>=8.95
Aditya Birla Capital	8.50-13.50	8.50-13.50	8.50-13.50
ICICI Home Finance	>=9.20	>=9.20	>=9.20
Godrej Housing Finance	8.39-10.99	8.39-10.99	8.39-10.99
Home First Finance	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00

Rates as on November 22 Source:Paisabazaar.com

CIANJUR

Death toll from earthquake in Indonesia rises to 321, official says

AP

The death toll from an earthquake that hit Indonesia's island of Java this week has risen to 321 as rescuers found more bodies on Sunday, the national disaster mitigation agency said. The shallow 5.6-magnitude earthquake hit the West Java town of Cianjur on Monday, where most of the victims were killed. AFP

SAN FRANCISCO

User sign-ups at all-time high; 66% more than last year, says Musk

AFP

Twitter Inc chief executive Elon Musk has said that new user sign-ups to the social media platform are at an "all-time high". Sign-ups were averaging over two million a day in the seven days to November 16, up 66% from the figures for the corresponding week in 2021, Mr. Musk said in a tweet late on Saturday. REUTERS

BRASÍLIA

Four dead after shooting in two schools in Brazil; more wounded

AFP

The death toll from a twin school shooting in Brazil rose to four on Saturday after a teacher wounded in the attack by a 16-year-old shooter wearing Nazi symbols died of her injuries, officials said. Authorities in the city of Aracruz, in Espirito Santo state, had said some of the wounded were in serious condition. AFP

SEOUL

North Korea will have the most powerful nuclear force, says Kim

AP

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said his country aimed to have the world's most powerful nuclear force as he celebrated the launch of its newest intercontinental ballistic missile at a ceremony with his young daughter, state media reported on Sunday. The Hwasong-17 is believed to be capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. AFP

Khamenei niece slams Iran regime, arrested

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Iranian authorities have arrested a niece of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei after she recorded a video describing the authorities led by her uncle as a "murderous and child-killing regime".

Farideh Moradkhani comes from a branch of the family that has a record of opposition to Iran's clerical leadership and has herself been jailed previously in the country.

Her brother, Mahmoud Moradkhani, wrote on Twitter that she was arrested on Wednesday after going to the office of the prosecutor following a summons. Then on Saturday her brother posted a video on YouTube, with the link shared on Twitter, where she condemned the "clear and obvious oppression" Iranians have been subjected to, and criticised the international community's inaction.

"Free people, be with us! Tell your governments to stop supporting this murderous and child-killing regime," she said.

Ms. Moradkhani is the daughter of Khamenei's sister Badri who fell out with her family in the 1980s and fled to Iraq at the peak of the war with Iran's neighbour. She joined her husband, the dissident cleric Ali Tehrani who was born Ali Moradkhani Arangeh.

In another incident, an Iranian rapper, Toomaj Salehi, who expressed support for the protests has been charged with "corruption on earth" and could face the death penalty, judicial authorities said.

'Misleading, blatant lies': Pak. Army denies claims about Bajwa

Market value of the Army chief's assets stood at Rs. 12.7 billion, report claimed; the assets of Gen. Bajwa's wife went from zero to Rs. 2.2 billion

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

In a quagmire: General Qamar Bajwa is scheduled to retire on Tuesday after getting a three-year extension. FILE PHOTO

The Pakistan Army finally broke its silence on Sunday to reject reports that its outgoing chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's family members and relatives became billionaires during his six-year tenure, terming them as "misleading" and based on "blatant lies." Gen. Bajwa, 61, is scheduled to retire on Tuesday after getting a three-year extension.

According to a report published by the *FactFocus* website, the alleged tax records of Gen. Bajwa's family show the current market value of the known assets and business of the Army chief, both within and outside Pakistan, amounted to Rs. 12.7 billion.

Following this, the Shehbaz Sharif-led Pakistan government launched a probe and suspended two officers from service for their involvement in leaking the tax records.

The Pakistan Army's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations, said misleading data regarding the assets of Army chief Gen. Bajwa and his family were shared on social media, and the same assumption-based data was presented in an exaggerated manner on different platforms.

The report claimed that the assets of Gen. Bajwa's wife, Ayesha Amjad, went from zero in 2016 to Rs. 2.2 billion (declared and known) in six years.

Senator from Imran's party arrested over remarks about Army

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

The federal police in Pakistan have arrested a Senator for comments critical of top military officers, colleagues from his Tehreek-e-Insaf political party said on Sunday. It was the second time he was taken into custody in two months.

Azam Khan Swati, a senior member of the party of former Prime Minister Imran Khan who represents Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, was picked up early on Sunday from his residence in an Islamabad suburb hours after he addressed an Imran Khan-led rally in the garrison city of Rawalpindi. Mr. Swati was charged with libel and appeared before a judge on Sunday who allowed the Federal Investigation Agency to interrogate the Senator for two days. He was being held at a facility in Islamabad.

'Obnoxious language'

Former human rights minister Shireen Mazari said a team of FIA officials detained Mr. Swati after he pressed the outgoing Army chief on details of his financial assets.

Mr. Swati had been arrested in October for using "obnoxious and intimidating" language to criticise Army chief Gen. Bajwa.

China grants free fuel to Sri Lanka's fishermen

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

China said on Sunday that it has donated 10.6 million litres of diesel to Sri Lankan farmers and fishermen to facilitate their work in the most affected sectors of agriculture and fishery. The vessel carrying the fuel donation was received by Sri Lanka's Minister of Fisheries Douglas Devananda here on Sunday.

"The 10.6 million litres of diesel will be provided free of cost to 2,32,749 farmers for harvesting 3,42,266 hectares of paddy fields, 20 litres per hectare," the Chinese Embassy in Colombo tweeted. Also 3,796 fishing vessels would receive 1,000 litres per vessel, the embassy added.

Did not attend Indian Ocean meet held by China, say Australia, Maldives officials

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

Australia and the Maldives said on Sunday that they did not participate in the recently held Indian Ocean Region Forum convened by China, which the organisers had claimed brought together representatives from 19 countries in the region, except for India.

Both countries clarified there was no official representation at the China-backed forum.

According to a statement from the organisers, the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), which is Beijing's new development aid agency, the forum in Kunming had brought together "high-level representatives" from 19 countries: Indonesia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran, Oman, South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Djibouti, and Australia.

No representative from India was invited for the meeting.

'No govt. presence'

The Maldives Foreign Ministry in a statement said it had noted the CIDCA statement and would "like to clarify that the Government of Maldives did not participate" and "there was no official representation", stressing that "participation by individuals" did not constitute official representation.

Australia's High Commissioner in Delhi, Barry O'Farrell, said in a post on Twitter that "no Australian Government official attended the Kunming China-Indian Ocean Forum on Development Cooperation".

Former Maldives President Mohammed Waheed Hassan and former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd were reported to have virtually joined the meeting, and both were attending in their individual capacity, not representing their governments.

Nature's fury

In wreck: Damaged tourist buses seen on the port of Casamicciola on Sunday, following heavy rain that caused a landslip on the island of Ischia in southern Italy. At least three people, including a young girl, were killed and some 10 pepople were still missing. AFP

Sport

Gill, Suryakumar entertain before rain takes over

Press Trust of India
HAMILTON

Battering ram: Suryakumar's wide range of shots were on display when play was possible. AFP

The elegant Shubman Gill (45 n.o., 42b, 4x4, 1x6) and the marauding Suryakumar Yadav (34 n.o., 25b, 2x4, 3x6) briefly entertained a sizeable Sunday crowd before inclement weather yet again played spoilsport and forced the abandonment of the second ODI between India and New Zealand here.

India was 89 for one in 12.5 overs when a second stoppage sealed the fate of the game as there was no possibility of having a minimum 20-over per side match within the stipulated cut-off time.

The match was reduced to 29-overs-a-side as the first interruption caused a four-hour break. After resumption, the visitors lost skipper Shikhar Dhawan for three.

The scores: India 89/1 in 12.5 overs (Shubman Gill 45 n.o., Suryakumar Yadav 34 n.o.) vs New Zealand. Rain ends play.

Third and final ODI: Nov. 30, Christchurch, 7 a.m. IST.

Arthur should make amends in Osman Sagar Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer M. Srinivas Reddy's Arthur, who ran a close second in his last start, should make amends in the Osman Sagar Cup, the chief event of Monday's races.

1 ROYAL TERN PLATE (DIV. III) (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 1.15 p.m.: 1. Costello (1) Deepak Singh 60, 2. Rhythm Selection (7) Md. Ismail 59, 3. Cabello (5) P. Sai Kumar 58, 4. Golden Forza (3) Vivek G 57.5, 5. Horse O' War (6) Rafique Sk. 55, 6. Sporting Smile (4) Afroz Khan 53.5, 7. My Rules (2) D.S. Deora 52.5 and 8. Aiza (8) Surya Prakash 51.
1. CABELLO, 2. COSTELLO, 3. SPORTING SMILE

2 SOLITAIRE PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III) – 1.50: 1. Exponent (5) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. That's My Way (9) Mukesh Kumar 60, 3. I Am Superman (7) B. Nikhil 59.5, 4. Saint Emilion (8) Santosh Raj 59, 5. Reining Queen (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 58.5, 6. Sound Echo (2) Vivek G 58, 7. First In Line (3) Surya Prakash 57, 8. Space Time (6) Aneel 56.5 and 9. AR Superior (1) G. Naresh 52.
1. SAINT EMILION, 2. THAT'S MY WAY, 3. EXPONENT

3 CRACK REGIMENT PLATE (DIV. I) (1,800m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.25: 1. Dream Station (7) M. Madhu Babu 60, 2. Quality Warrior (5) Mukesh Kumar 59, 3. Humanitarian (2) Suraj Narredu 57.5, 4. Soorya Vahan (8) Md. Ismail 56.5, 5. Sweet Whisper (4) R.S. Jodha 55, 6. Forever Bond (3) Afroz Khan 54.5, 7. Akash (6) Santosh Raj 53.5 and 8. New Hustle (1) B. Nikhil 52.
1. HUMANITARIAN, 2. QUALITY WARRIOR, 3. NEW HUSTLE

4 GADWAL PLATE (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.00: 1. DRD (5) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Bedford (10) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 3. N R I Vision (9) G. Naresh 58.5, 4. Beauty On Parade (4) A.A. Vikrant 56, 5. Shazam (2) D.S. Deora 56, 6. Hashtag (7) Gaurav Singh 53, 7. Mind Reader (6) R.S. Jodha 53, 8. Four One Four (8) Md. Ismail 52.5, 9. Angel Tesoro (1) P. Sai Kumar 51.5 and 10. Classy Dame (3) Afroz Khan 51.5.
1. BEDFORD, 2. SHAZAM, 3. BEAUTY ON PARADE

5 CRACK REGIMENT PLATE (DIV. II) (1,800m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 3.35: 1. Superstellar (6) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Exclusive Spark (4) Mohit Singh 58, 3. Team Player (1) Afroz Khan 57.5, 4. Carnival Lady (2) B. Nikhil 56, 5. Queen Blossom (5) Md. Ismail 56, 6. Sucker (8) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54, 7. Arrowtown (3) P. Sai Kumar 53.5 and 8. Swiss Girl (7) Santosh Raj 52.
1. SUPERSTELLAR, 2. EXCLUSIVE SPARK, 3. TEAM PLAYER

6 OSMAN SAGAR CUP (1,600m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 4.10: 1. City Of Blessing (3) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Arthur (2) P.S. Chouhan 58, 3. Galwan (7) P. Ajeeth Kumar 57.5, 4. Gregor Clegane (6) Vivek G 55, 5. Juramento (5) Akshay Kumar 53, 6. Winning Streak (1) Afroz Khan 53 and 7. Fly Tothe Stars (4) P. Sai Kumar 52.5.
1. ARTHUR, 2. CITY OF BLESSING, 3. JURAMENTO

7 SOLITAIRE PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III) – 4.45: 1. Ikra (7) Aneel 60, 2. Malahat (40 D.S. Deora 60, 3. Sea Of Class (1) Vivek G 59.5, 4. Silver Lining (5) Rafique Sk. 59, 5. My Marvel (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 57.5, 6. Red River (8) R.S. Jodha 57.5, 7. Arba Wahed Arba (2) Afroz Khan 57 and 8. Good Tidings (6) Akshay Kumar 54.5.
1. GOOD TIDINGS, 2. SEA OF CLASS, 3. MALAHAT
DAY'S BEST: Arthur.
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7; Mini jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Treble: (i): 2, 3 & 4; (ii): 5, 6 & 7.
Tanala: All races.

Govers 'tricks as Aussies thrash India

Sharpshooter: Govers sets off his hat-trick beating India 'keeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak. GETTY IMAGES

Press Trust of India
ADELAIDE

Blake Govers slammed a brilliant hat-trick to guide Australia to a 7-4 win over India in the second of a five-match hockey Test series here on Sunday.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh struck even before the home team could settle, firing India to a third-minute lead, the home team began to call the shots soon with Govers and Jack Welch leading the goal spree.

The result: Australia 7 (Blake Govers 12, 27, 53, Jack Welch 17, 24; Jake Whetton 49, Jacob Anderson 48) bt India 4 (Harmanpreet Singh 3, 60, Hardik Singh 25, Mohammed Raheel 36).

LEO THE CHARMER

Largest crowd in 28 years gathers to watch Messi

The Lusail Stadium on Saturday hosted the most people at a World Cup match since the 1994 final in the United States. Lionel Messi wrought his magic in front of 88,966 spectators when Argentina beat Mexico. 91,194 were at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena to watch Brazil beat Italy in 1994.

MAJOR SETBACK

Fuller's late strike wins it for Costa Rica against Japan

Japan squandered an opportunity to advance early to the World Cup last 16 after Keysher Fuller's goal 10 minutes from time gave Costa Rica a surprise 1-0 win. The result left Japan with a tough challenge to advance to the knockout stages, with Spain its final Group E opponent on Thursday.

COMING GOOD

Kramaric fires up Croatia as Canada's hopes are crushed

Andrej Kramaric's goals (36th, 70th minutes) helped Croatia crush Canada's hopes of advancing with a 4-1 victory on Sunday. Marko Livaja (44th) and Lovro Majer (90+4) also got on the scoresheet while Alphonso Davies (second minute) gave Canada an early lead.

TOUGH TASK

Patchy Portugal needs more than Ronaldo to beat Uruguay

Portugal could qualify early for the next phase with a game remaining if it beats Uruguay on Monday, a task easier said than done. Uruguay is more than familiar with Portugal having knocked it out in 2018. Ronaldo's team has much to do to shake off a dismal run of form.

NEEDLE CLASH

Clinical edge the key for South Korea in Ghana clash

South Korea will need to find the much-needed clinical edge when it faces Ghana in Monday's Group H game. Coach Paulo Bento will be sweating over the fitness of defender Kim Min-jae. Ghana risks getting knocked out in the first round if it loses to Korea.

Messi works his magic to bring Argentina back from the brink and breathing again

A fantastic goal and an assist for Fernandez for the second goal breaks the spirit of a fighting Mexico and opens up the group

FIFA WORLD CUP

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

"Messi Ole, Messi Ole... Ole, Ole, Ole..." Argentina fans – and many more of its superstar – had found their voice.

A stifling opening hour of play, when nothing was created, was taking Argentina towards doom: an early World Cup exit and no swansong for Lionel Messi, who had built an expectation-laden cloud for one last dance.

Mexican fans were outnumbered, but gamely sang on, equally vocal despite the din from the blue that filled most of the stadium.

The players, too, showcased the same fight – a crowded five-man defence blocking the space in the final third. The fouls came when needed and sometimes just to show Messi and his mates that this was no stroll in the park.

The blue and white were bruised and Messi could just walk, the touches were far from the goal and there was no path for his meandering runs. But then his moment came, Angel Di Maria – the prophet's apostle – finding a sliver of space coming in from the right.

Messiah: Argentina desperately needed deliverance, and Messi was on hand to answer the prayers! GETTY IMAGES

Messi was miraculously unmarked, as if the sea had parted for the messiah to work the magic of deliverance. A measured first touch – not too heavy, not too soft – set him up, the trigger followed, and the low drive saw the ball nestling in the bottom corner. The world erupted and Messi shed tears.

Argentina, too, was liberated as its skipper had his smile back, and attacked, willing the Mexicans to wilt.

And, the next goal arrived. Messi again came to life – conserving his energy in the meantime. A corner was played short, and his ball found Enzo Fernandez inside the penalty box through outstretched Mexican legs.

The Mexican resistance was broken, they were a touch slower off the blocks and the tackles missed the earlier intimidation. Fernandez had time and a deft move took him past Erick Gutierrez before a shot was permed to the right top corner, Guillermo Ochoa, the Mexican wall, was now a defeated mortal.

Messi ran into the arms of the beneficiary and Fernandez was only happy to carry the load of the captain.

The deathly fog of despair was no more there and Maradona – two years and a day after his death – was also smiling among the stars.

The result: Argentina 2 (Messi 64, Fernandez 87) bt Mexico 0.

Group C

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Poland	2	1	1	0	2	4
Argentina	2	1	0	1	1	3
Saudi Arabia	2	1	0	1	-1	3
Mexico	2	0	1	1	-2	1

REMAINING FIXTURES:
DEC. 1: **Poland** *vs* **Argentina**; **Saudi Arabia** *vs* **Mexico**

A relief and great joy for everyone in the dressing room: Messi

Nailed it! Enzo Fernandez celebrates sealing the issue. AP

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

A ponderous first half against Mexico at the Lusail Stadium had raised further doubts about Argentina's title credentials and ability to fight back.

But an elegant second-half goal from Lionel Messi and another equally brilliant strike by Enzo Fernandez brought the smiles back to tense faces.

"It was a difficult match to lift us up because Mexico played well. We played the first half with a lot of intensity but in the second half we were calmer and went back to being ourselves.

"The win was a relief for the entire dressing room and brought us great joy," Messi said after the game.

"The first game cost us, and there were a lot of factors behind that defeat. We knew that today we had to win, that another World Cup was starting for us, and as a team we knew how we could do it," he said.

Looking ahead to Argentina's last group game against Poland, which defeated Saudi Arabia 2-0 to move to the top, Messi said.

"We can't give up now. We have all the finals to play, we can't make mistakes."

If Messi's strike brought relief to the edgy Argentine fanbase, Fernandez's goal in the 87th minute got the party started.

"I'm not surprised by Enzo. I know him and I see him train every day. He deserves the goal because he's a spectacular player and an important player for us. I am happy for him," the Argentina captain said.

TODAY'S FIESTA

Morocco races past 'too old' Belgium

Breaking through: Sabiri nets Morocco's opener. GETTY IMAGES

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

The Belgium national team is "too old", Kevin De Bruyne rightly said. In its second World Cup game, it was phlegmatic once more, and Thibaut Courtois, too, has looked fallible playing with men who have lost most of their extraordinary talents.

The goalkeeper misjudged and let a free-kick from Abdelhamid Sabiri slip past his grasp in the 73rd minute as Morocco registered a 2-0 win at the Al Thumama Stadium on Sunday and moved to the top of the Group F table.

The other goal came in the second minute of second-half stoppage time as Belgium showed no interest in clearing a long goal kick from El-Kajoui and the ball found its way to Hakim Ziyech. He sidestepped his marker to pass it on to Zakaria Aboukhlal, the latter's shot from close quarters crashing into the roof of the net. Earlier, Courtois had fumbled and let in a Ziyech free-kick during the dying seconds of the first half, with only technology coming to his rescue as VAR found Romain Saiss fractionally off-side.

Morocco was content to cede possession, but always threatened when galloping forward, with Achraf Hakimi regularly running up the right touchline leaving Belgium a little winded.

This was no World Cup classic but it was a game Morocco would never forget.

The result: Belgium 0 lost to Morocco 2 (Sabiri 73, Aboukhlal 90+2).

Group F

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Croatia	2	1	1	0	3	4
Morocco	2	1	1	0	2	4
Belgium	2	1	0	1	-1	3
Canada	2	0	0	2	-4	0

REMAINING FIXTURES:
DEC. 1: **Croatia** *vs* **Belgium**; **Canada** *vs* **Morocco**

No Neymar? No problem for Brazil!

Reuters
DOHA

Brazil will face Switzerland on Monday without Neymar, ruled out by an ankle injury, but with a host of young talent to step in for him. The five-time champion will also be without ever-reliable full back Danilo, who also sustained an ankle injury.

Coach Tite will have plenty of options available to replace Neymar against Switzerland and thereafter.

Real Madrid prodigy Rodrygo would be the first option if Tite decides to use the same system with four men up-front alongside Vinicius, Richarlison and Raphinha.

However, the biggest question mark is regarding Danilo's replacement, as 39-year-old veteran Dani Alves is the only right back available.

Tite tested out centre back Eder Militao as a full back in the friendly match against Ghana, which could be another option.

The options: With Neymar and Danilo, right, both out, Rodrygo, left, and Militao, second left, could get a look in. REUTERS

Morocco custodian's disappearing act

Associated Press
DOHA

Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou mysteriously disappeared before kick off in his team's World Cup game against Belgium on Sunday.

Bounou was named in the starting line-up and also sang the national anthem. But, when the game started, reserve 'keeper Monir El Kajoui was in goal.

It was later revealed that Bounou had felt dizzy right before kick off and asked to be replaced.

INBRIEF

Auger-Aliassime leads Canada to maiden Davis Cup triumph

Canada won its first Davis Cup title on Sunday, beating Australia 2-0 with wins from Denis Shapovalov and Felix Auger-Aliassime. Auger-Aliassime secured the winning point when he downed Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-4 after Shapovalov opened the day by rolling past Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-2, 6-4. In the semifinals, Auger-Aliassime won both his singles and doubles rubbers in a 2-1 win over Italy.

Sreenidhi posts third consecutive I-League win

Sreenidhi Deccan FC recorded its third consecutive win in the Hero I-League when it defeated Gokulam Kerala 1-0 via Faysal Shayesteh's strike at the Deccan Arena, Hyderabad on Sunday.

Ajinkya stars for Thalaivas; Bharat delivers for Bulls

Ajinkya Pawar (12 points) helped Tamil Thalaivas survive a late surge from Gujarat Giants and pull off a 42-39 win in the Pro Kabaddi League in Hyderabad on Sunday. Bharat (23 points) was the architect of Bengaluru Bulls' 52-49 win over Dabang Delhi in the other match.

TN, Saurashtra to cross swords again

The outcome of the clash of the domestic one-day heavyweights could well be decided by how the TN opening batters deal with the rival pace pair

HAZARE TROPHY

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

Eleven months since being involved in a nail-biting semifinal, Tamil Nadu will face Saurashtra yet again for a place in the last four of the Vijay Hazare Trophy at Nadiad, 65km from here, on Monday.

That last-ball thriller in Jaipur still on their minds, two of the most consistent one-day sides in domestic cricket square off after topping their respective groups.

Tamil Nadu – the most successful team in the tournament with five titles – has featured in two of the last three finals, while Saurashtra has qualified for the knockouts for the third consecutive season.

Tamil Nadu trained at a private facility here on Sunday, Saurashtra practised at the Gokulbhai Somabhai Patel Stadium in Nadiad, the match venue.

Both teams will know that the clash of the heavyweights could well be decided by how Tamil Nadu opening batters Jagadeesan and B. Sai Sudharsan deal with Saurashta's left-arm pace pair of Jaydev Unadkat and Chetan Sakariya.

Such has been the Jagadeesan-Sudharsan pair's dominance in the league stage that besides creating a plethora of records, the duo has faced almost 82 per cent of the 1542 balls faced by Tamil Nadu batters in the league stage.

Easier said than done!

If the duo – with a combined tally of 1,408 runs and eight hundreds – can continue their streak, the job will be all but done. But their task will be easier said than done.

Captain Unadkat and the promising Sakariya have so far claimed 24 wickets together. Moreover, the duo has consistently struck with the new ball. Only once in seven games did Saurashtra go wicketless in the PowerPlay.

With an early morning start favouring teams fielding first – all three pre-quarterfinals saw the team batting losing the game – Saurashtra will be hoping the coin lands in Unadkat's favour. Jagadeesan and Sai Sudharsan's prolific form has meant the middle- and lower-middle orders have seldom come into play.

It will be interesting to see whether Tamil Nadu captain B. Indrajith promotes big-hitter M. Shahrukh Khan should the openers continue to fire.

The quarterfinal line-up:
Punjab vs Karnataka;
Maharashtra vs Uttar Pradesh;
Assam vs Jammu & Kashmir;
Tamil Nadu vs Saurashtra.

In the spotlight: Sai Sudharsan and Jagadeesan will look to continue their rich batting form. SUDHAKARA JAIN

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Navas on song for DPS East

E.C. Navas scored thrice as DPS East defeated East India HC 5-1 in the KSHA C-division hockey league here on Sunday.

The results: Blue Star 4 (Royan Rodrigues 23, 29, Jagadish 30, Sundhar Raj 45) bt Sahyadri, Shivamogga 1 (Suresh 36); DPS East 5 (E.C. Navas 14, 39, 46, C.H. Mohammed Ashou 31, Shahnul 43) bt East India 1 (Shiben 10).

Kickstart and Bengaluru FC to clash for title

Kickstart and Bengaluru FC entered the under-11 final of the KSFA Youth Premier League here.

The results: U-18: NEYFC bt BBFS 6-0; FCBU bt Bangalore Champs FA 6-0; Roots FS bt Conscient FB 5-1; **U-17:** BYFC drew with Raman FA 0-0;. **U-15:** Sportshoid FC bt Coolulu FA 4-0; MVFA bt PlaySmart FC 6-0. **U-13:** BBFSB bt MVFA 11-0; VAS FC bt Titan FC 2-1. **U-11 (semifinals):** Kickstart FS bt BCFC 2-0; JSW BFC bt Alchemy Intl FA 2-1. **U-9:** Vickey FA bt BBFS 3-2; RSA bt FCBU 3-1; JSW BFC bt BCFC 4-1; BSSSS bt Alchemy Intl FA 4-3; RSA bt Roots FS 7-2.

LIVE TELECAST

Vijay Hazare Trophy: (Quarterfinals): Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9 a.m.

I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2, 4.30 & 7 p.m.

FIFA World Cup 2022: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m. onwards

SNAPSHOTS

Ravina strikes gold on final day

Reigning Asian champion Ravina punched her way to gold in the 63kg category as India ended the men's and women's Youth World Boxing Championships with 11 medals in La Nucia, Spain.

Indian medallists: Women: Gold: Ravina (63kg), Devika Ghorpade (52kg); **Silver:** Kirti (+81kg), Bhawna Sharma (48kg); **Bronze:** Muskan (75kg), Lashu Yadav (70kg), Kunjarani Devi Thongam (60kg), Tamanna (50kg).

Men: Gold: Vanshaj (63.5kg), Vishwanath Suresh (48kg); **Silver:** Ashish (54kg).

Ex-Windies 'keeper David Murray passes away

David Murray.
GETTY IMAGES

Former West Indies wicketkeeper David Murray has died at the age of 72, Cricket West Indies (CWI) said in a statement on Saturday. Murray played 19 Tests and 10 ODIs for the West Indies between 1978 and 1982 making three half-centuries.

The son of former West Indies great Everton Weekes, Murray received a life ban after taking part in a rebel tour of South Africa in 1983 and struggled with drug problems later in life.

Big win for TN men

Defending champion Tamil Nadu men beat Delhi 91-56 in the opening league match of group-C in the 72nd National basketball championship in Udaipur on Sunday.
In the women's section, champion Railways beat Punjab 85-49.

Kerala defeats Karnataka

CHANDIGARH: Kerala defeated Karnataka by three wickets in the under-25 State A cricket tournament here on Sunday.

The scores: Karnataka 253 in 49.3 overs (Shubhang Hegde 47, Rohan A. Patil 45, Kruthik Krishna 35) lost to Kerala 254/7 in 48.4 overs (Krishna Prasad 99, Shoun Roger 55, Anand Krishnan 35, Vidyadhar Patil 4/29).

Cleiton, Suhair star in East Bengal's win

JAMSHEDPUR: Cleiton Silva's brace (26th & 58th) after Suhair's second-minute strike powered East Bengal to a 3-1 win against Jamshedpur FC in their ISL match on Sunday.
Jay Thomas scored off a penalty in the 40th minute for JFC.